Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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62 refund applications OK'd; Fund pays $884K. PAGE 2

Burglars break into five vehicles in Dandan. PAGE 3

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:
Do you support debt forgiveness for CNMI scholars who fail to pay back the money awarded them for their college education?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

PANDEMIC ALERT STATUS

PHASE 6

As of September 22, 2009

Phase 6: The pandemic phase, is an indication that a global pandemic is underway.

For more information about the H1N1 flu, contact DPH at 236-8797, Monday to Friday, from 8am to 5pm, 234-8950 during after hours, e-mail cnmipheoc@gmail.com, or visit www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/.

Source: CNMI Department of Public Health, World Health Organization

INSIDE

Beach Cleanup
Students of the Seventh-day Adventist School participate in the 24th International Cleanup Day.

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Guest Spot
Add this one to the presidential collection: the heart-shaped potato.

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'DHS is ready for federalization'

No change in visa waiver rule before Nov. 28

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Department of Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano said DHS would be ready for the Nov. 28 implementation of the federalization law that puts the CNMI under federal control, but local officials are not convinced that the agency has enough personnel, infrastructure and other resources to effectively control the islands' borders.

Napolitano, in a Monday meeting in Washington, D.C. with Delegates Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP) and Madeleine Bordallo (D-Gu), also said the published visa waiver rule will not be changed before the start of federalization.

This means that Chinese and Russian tourists will no longer be allowed to enter the CNMI or Guam without a U.S. visa starting Nov. 28.

But Napolitano did hold out the hope of some "creative solu-

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
From left, Guam Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo, Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano, and CNMI Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan meet in Washington, D.C. Monday to discuss the transition to federal control of the borders in the Northern Marianas and other aspects of U.S. Public Law 110-229.

'DHS lacks sufficient funding. They have no finalized arrangement for space at the ports. There does not appear to be any equipment installed. ...And there are only 68 days until Nov. 28.'

—Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP)

House passes 2010 budget bill

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
Rep. Joe Reyes (R-Saipan), standing left, and Rep. Edwin Aldan (Cov-Tinian), standing right, confer with Rep. Francisco Dela Cruz (Cov-Saipan), while Rep. Ray N. Yumul (R-Saipan), seated right, reviews documents right after the House passed on a 12-4 vote Yumul's Fiscal Year 2010 budget bill yesterday afternoon.

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

By a 12-4 vote, the House of Representatives passed yesterday on first and final reading the Fiscal Year 2010 budget bill introduced by House Ways and Means Committee chair Rep Ray N. Yumul (R-Saipan).

House Bill 16-275, HD2 was passed without debate or lengthy discussion, even with two floor amendments.

The budget bill reflects $162.82 million in projected budgetary resources. Of this amount, $150.5 million is available for appropriation. There are no salary cuts but total non-personnel costs are reduced by $9.7 million in lieu of austerity measures.

The budget bill now heads to the Senate.

As of yesterday, Senate Presi-

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DPH execs snub House committee hearing on health

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

No Department of Public Health official or any other member of the community showed up at the House of Representatives chamber yesterday morning for a public hearing to receive testimony on health issues that include hiring of doctors and nurses, medical referral, medical malpractice and funding.

"I'm disappointed that no one came," said House Committee on Health, Education and Welfare chairman Rep. Ralph Tor-

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LIFE'S SHORT TYPE FAST

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Local

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Rehabilitation Council - Statewide Independent Living Council
Joint Meeting

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC §9910, the public is advised that the State Rehabilitation Council & the Statewide Independent Living Council will hold their FY 09 Joint Council Meeting on **Friday, September 25, 2009 at the Azucena 1 & 2, Fiesta Resort Hotel from 9:00am-2:00pm.** Interested individuals are welcome to attend.

AGENDA

I. Welcome & Introduction

II. Review and Adoption of Agenda

III. Adoption of Previous Council Minutes
- Joint 09/25/08
- SRC 05/21/09
- SILC 09/04/09

IV. Reports
- SILC Chairman
- Committee Chairpersons
- SRC Chairman
- OVR Director
  - ➢ Monitoring Report
  - ➢ ARRA Funds
  - ➢ OVR Annual Report
  - ➢ Fiscal Update
  - ➢ Consumer Services/Statistics

V. Election of Council Officers

VI. Mutual Projects
- Accessible Public Transportation
- 2009 Nat'l Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM)

VII. Schedule of 2010 Joint Council Meeting

VIII. Announcements/Miscellaneous

IX. Adjournment

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend the meeting but require accommodations such as large print or sign language interpreters, are asked to call 322-6537(voice) or 322-6449(TTY). Please contact Magin Iginoef (Council Liaison) two days in advanced for necessary arrangements.

Publication of this notice is paid for by federal funds made possible by the United States Department of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS).

62 refund applications OK'd; Fund pays $884K

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The NMI Retirement Fund board of trustees has approved the application of 62 individuals who all want to withdraw their employer's contribution to the Fund, to the tune of $884,000.

Saipan Tribune learned that these applications were that of Class 1 members, who are eligible to do so pursuant to law.

Fund administrator Mark Aguon said yesterday that a total of $297,630 will be issued to 12 applicants who served less than 10 years in government service. A total of $586,651 will be paid out to 50 other applicants who have more than 10 years of service.

These applications were received from various government agencies in July and August.

The Fund board had adopted a resolution in July that the agency will stop paying out refunds to members starting Sept. 1 due to the Fund's deteriorating fiscal condition.

Despite this, Aguon said the agency continues to receive refund applications beyond the Sept. 1 deadline.

A number of pending applications were also noted because the Fund received some post-dated applications while others are being withheld to comply with the 90-day requirement of issuance of refund payments to members.

Aguon also disclosed a few applications asking for early withdrawals of contributions due to some emergencies.

"Several requests for the early release of refund of contributions have been received, citing several reasons such as medical emergencies, financial situation, education needs, etc." said Aguon, adding that the board is expected to address the matter on a case-by-case basis.

The board authorized Aguon yesterday to use his judgment on these "emergency" requests.

Saipan Tribune learned that from 2007 to July 2009, the agency recorded over 900 refund applications, of which the Fund paid out a total of $8 million.

Based on a study conducted by the agency, some of these individuals were re-employed back to government service and were entered into the defined contribution plan less than the six-month separation period required under the law.

LABOR, IMMIGRATION WORKERS TO FUND:

'Delay suspending refunds to 2010'

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Local labor and immigration employees have appealed to the Retirement Fund to delay the suspension of refund payments by another year, due to the uncertain status of their jobs come Nov. 28—the effective date of federalization.

Saipan Tribune learned that over a hundred personnel from the two agencies will be affected and may be displaced in November when federal authorities take over their jobs.

Fund legal counsel Viola Alepuyo disclosed yesterday that a meeting is being scheduled between these personnel and the Fund administrator to hear their concerns.

RELATED NEWS
Fitial urges Fund to reconsider suspension of refunds, benefits
PAGE 8

Refund payments to members were suspended beginning Sept. 1, pursuant to a Fund board resolution.

Alepuyo said local labor and immigration personnel want the Fund to delay the suspension to January 2010, until they know what exactly will happen to them.

It was learned that majority of these workers are not qualified for retirement. These employees also did not qualify for positions offered by the U.S. Labor and Immigration departments, which examined and screened these workers for possible jobs.

Most of these affected employees are planning to withdraw their contributions to the Fund in preparation for a worst-case scenario.

Last Monday, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial asked the board to reconsider its decision, citing the impact it may have on government employees.

The board voted to refer the "refund payment issue" to a committee, which will make a recommendation to the board at their next meeting.

Financial Committee chair Sixto Igisomar said that, although it is advisable to "review" the Fund's decision, the agency must make it clear to all parties that they are not giving them hope that the decision will change.

Igisomar reminded the board that the Fund had already issued three notifications about the suspension of refunds and changing their decision may send the wrong signal.

He reiterated the fiduciary duty of trustees, which is to protect the assets of retirees.

Fund administrator Mark Aguon said the board is considering all requests, including the governor's concern, public comments, and personal letters from members.

"The board will consider and weigh everything… to see the cost benefits if we will waive or stick with the resolution," Aguon told *Saipan Tribune*.

Other board members emphasized the need to stick with their decision.

The Fitial administration earlier planned a lateral transfer of affected labor and immigration employees to other government agencies but this is being hampered by a lack of funds.

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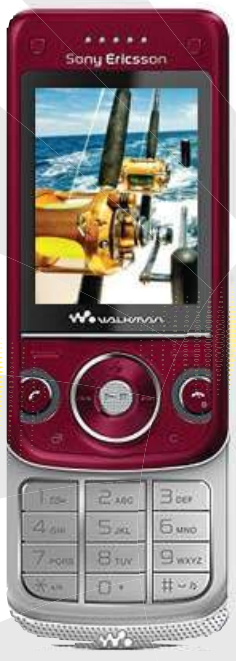

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Burglars break into five vehicles in Dandan

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Taking advantage of the torrential rain Friday night, burglars broke into five vehicles that were parked at the New Century Plaza Apartment in Dandan.

The Department of Public Safety has yet to release information about the burglary.

Owners of the vehicles learned of the burglary only upon waking up Saturday morning and seeing their cars forcibly opened.

"Saipan is not a safe place anymore!" one of the car owners told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday. Nothing was stolen from her car, but the quarter glass window on the right passenger side was shattered.

The victim, who asked not to be identified for security reason, said four other vehicles had the same damage to the quarter glass window on the right passenger side.

Among the items that she said were taken from her neighbors' vehicles were a car stereo and an MP4 player.

Since last year, the apartment units have been burglarized thrice already. No one has been arrested yet.

In July, burglars also broke into five vehicles that were parked at the Vestcor Village Apartment Complex on Capital Hill. The suspects stole a Pioneer CD player, several sunglasses, keys, and other miscellaneous items. No one has been arrested.

Last weekend, robbers hit three separate poker arcades on Saipan, injuring a security guard. No one has been arrested.

ESGR employers tour USNS *Lummus*

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

Representatives of private companies and government agencies on Saipan had the rare chance of touring the U.S. Navy ship *1st Lt. Jack Lummus* yesterday, where they signed a statement of support for the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve.

ESGR is a group composed of volunteers that promotes the rights of employed military reservists based on the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act.

The statement of support is to recognize the National Guard and Reserve officers, who they said are essential to the strength of the nation and well-being of the community.

Lummus' Capt. Geoffrey Pack also signed the statement, following the ESGR employers' tour of the 25-year-old ship.

Pack explained that his ship is not only for combat but also for emergency disaster response.

The ship is capable of producing its own fresh water and can supply some 3,000 galloons a day to an area that is ravaged by any disaster.

The ship can carry up to 700 military vehicles. It has on board 14 tanks.

The *Lummus* serves as the flagship for Maritime Prepositioning Ship Squadron 3, and is the fourth ship in the 2nd Lt. John P. Bobo - class of Cargo Ships. The ship carries a full range of Marine Corps cargo, enough cargo to support a Marine Air Ground Task Force for 30 days.

It has lift-on/lift-off capabilities as well as roll-on/roll-off capabilities. Navy lighterage carried onboard consists of causeways, both powered and unpowered, and small boats to move them around.

The 672.6 feet ship participates in at least one major Maritime Prepositioning Force exercise per year.

It has a capacity of 1,605,000 gallons petroleum, and 81,700 gallons water.

It has a crew of 18 US Navy personnel, 30 civilians and 25 civilian maintenance. Its homeport is Guam and Saipan.

Pack said they are on their way to Guam before gong back to the U.S. mainland for inventory and all the equipment on board would be replaced there.

Some of those who joined the tour were Jordon Kosam of the Commonwealth Ports Authority, Jason Tarkong of the Department of Public Safety, Vicky Concepcion of First Hawaiian Bank, Ivan Quichoco of Tan Holdings, and Juan Wabol of DPS.

The ESGR team was composed of retired Maj. Gen. Benny Paulino (Guam-CNMI state chair), Capt. Jo Blas (program administrator), Rose Igitol (CNMI area chair), and Mariano Fajardo (military outreach coordinator).

Gov. Benigno Fitial is scheduled to sign a proclamation for the ESGR Week today.

NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
USNS Lummus Capt. Geoffrrey Pack and his crew pose with the ESGR volunteers and employers.

Judiciary reaffirms support for troops

Chief Justice Miguel S. Demapan led yesterday the proclamation signing reaffirming the Judiciary's support for CNMI and Guam soldiers.

"Today, the Judiciary will again reaffirm its support for the many men and women in our reserve who have been called to defend our lives and liberty all over the world," said Demapan during a brief ceremony held in the CNMI Supreme Court.

The public recognition, Demapan said, cannot be compared to the sacrifices that the soldiers endure to ensure that people continue to enjoy the freedom and liberty that they take for granted each day as Americans.

"For our soldiers, we want them to know that as employers, we are forever grateful for putting your lives in harm's way for all of us employers, individuals and country alike," the chief justice said.

Present at the signing were associate justices Alexandro Castro and John Manglona, and associate judges Perry B. Inos and Ramona V. Manglona.

Retired Maj. Gen. Benny Paulino, the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Guam and CNMI Committee state chair, also attended the ceremony, along with other committee members.

Seventy members of the 100th Battalion Command 442nd Infantry came back recently to CNMI after their deployment in Kuwait.

Over 100 CNMI citizens are members of the U.S. Army Reserves deployed in Afghanistan and the Middle East.

ESGR is an agency of the Department of Defense. Its mission is to gain and maintain employer support fro National Guard and Reserve service by recognizing outstanding employer support, increasing awareness of the law, and resolving conflict through mediation. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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Alleged victim testifies against Calvo

A 14-year-old girl told jurors yesterday how businessman Patrick Mendiola Calvo sexually molested her on June 11, 2008.

The girl managed to control her emotion on the witness stand, but as soon as she stepped outside the courtroom she hugged a family member and burst into tears.

After the girl's testimony, her mother also took the witness stand and narrated to the court how she learned about the incident.

During questioning by assistant attorney general Brian Gallagher, the girl said she was then 13 years old when Calvo sexually abused her inside her room.

After the molestation, she said the defendant told her not to tell anybody about what had happened.

She said she was scared of Calvo and didn't know what to do so she immediately called her two friends and a family member and told them about it.

The alleged victim seemed composed as she took the witness stand but was visibly seen trying to hold back tears as she recounted the incident during examinations by both Gallagher and Calvo's counsel, G. Anthony Long.

When her testimony was over, as soon as she stepped outside the courtroom, she broke into tears as a family member hugged her.

After the alleged victim, her mother took the witness stand. When *Saipan Tribune* left the courtroom, the mother was still on the stand.

Earlier yesterday, Kendall Gladding, a former psychologist at the Community Guidance Center, completed her testimony. While working then as the Community Guidance Center, Gladding evaluated and counseled the girl. Gladding determined that the girl suffered post-traumatic stress after the incident.

After Gladding, social worker Julian R. Camacho testified for the government, saying he got involved in the investigation after his partner at the Division of Youth Services called him on June 12, 2008, and informed him about a sexual abuse case involving a minor.

Camacho said when he first saw the girl her eyes were red from crying.

"By looking at her she looked tired," the case worker said.

The trial of 47-year-old Calvo will resume this morning, Wednesday.

Guam sets H1N1, seasonal flu campaigns

Guam Gov. Felix P. Camacho and Lt. Gov. Michael W. Cruz, M.D., have signed Executive Order 2009-014 establishing the Pandemic (H1N1) 2009 Influenza and Regular Seasonal Flu Vaccine campaigns that will run in Guam from September to December of this year.

The campaign, along with other measures included in the executive order, will assist and support the Guam Pandemic Planning Task Force with the upcoming deployment and administration of flu vaccines to combat the H1N1 flu and seasonal flu.

The task force was established through executive order to formulate a pandemic plan and work with all sectors of the community to ensure that any potentially affected entity takes the necessary steps to prepare for a pandemic.

"It is important that our community remain vigilant and take the necessary steps and precautions when dealing with both the H1N1 flu and seasonal flu," said Camacho. "With the spread of the H1N1 virus likely to continue, this executive order is vital in helping ensure that our people will receive the proper vaccinations to protect themselves." ***(PR)***

DHS

From Page 1

tion" to allow Chinese and Russian tourists into the Marianas.

During the same meeting, Napolitano told Sablan and Bordallo that she had no more authority to delay the implementation of Public Law 110-229.

The DHS secretary had already delayed federalization by 180 days, the maximum allowed by law, from June 1 to Nov. 28 this year.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, who is also in Washington, D.C. to meet with Napolitano on Tuesday, agrees with Sablan's assessment of DHS' readiness.

"The CNMI community is not convinced DHS will be ready enough for the Nov. 28 implementation. …DHS will not have a fully staffed and equipped set of entry ports in the CNMI until 2011. The facilities in place on Nov. 28, 2009, will fall far short of the standards met by the typical port of entry in the 50 states," press secretary Charles Reyes said when asked for comment on the results of Napolitano's meeting with the delegates.

Fitial, according to acting Gov. Eloy Inos, will be asking for the inclusion of Chinese and Russian tourists in the visa waiver program and, in the alternative, delay the implementation of P.L. 110-229.

Congressional act

Reyes, along with CNMI House Foreign and Federal Relations Committee chair Rep. Diego Benavente (R-Saipan) said the law does not give Napolitano authority to further delay CNMI federalization but this can still be accomplished through an act of Congress.

"I am still hopeful that Kilili or someone else in Congress will introduce a bill delaying federalization," Benavente said in an interview.

Benavente asked his colleagues in the House to support Sablan's call for a delay in the implementation of P.L. 110-229, saying DHS is not prepared to secure the CNMI's borders and the absence of the CNMI-only transitional worker program.

Time ticks away for a congressional bill to be introduced, passed by the U.S. House and Senate, and signed into law by President Obama.

Sablan and Bordallo, the chairwoman of the U.S. House Subcommittee on Insular Affairs, Oceans and Wildlife, expressed appreciation to Napolitano for taking the time to have a meeting specifically on the implementation of P.L. 110-229.

Sablan also thanked Bordallo and U.S. House Committee on Natural Resources Rep. Nick Rahall II (D-WV) for arranging the meeting with Napolitano.

"But I do not think we are any farther along with the department. Secretary Napolitano said she 'gets it' that losing Russian and Chinese tourists will be a significant blow to the CNMI economy. I told her that losing Chinese tourists is 100 percent of Tinian's economy and will mean an end to the inter-island ferry that Tinian people depend on," Sablan said in a statement issued yesterday.

'Only 68 days left'

During Monday's meeting, Napolitano told Sablan and Bordallo that DHS would be ready to stand up the borders on Nov. 28.

"I told her, respectfully, I disagree," said Sablan.

Sablan provided Napolitano with a letter that reiterated many of his concerns about P.L. 110-229's implementation, including DHS' continued silence on the rights of CNMI permanent residents and of immediate relatives of U.S. citizens to come and go from the Commonwealth.

Sablan also expressed concern about DHS' operational readiness.

"DHS lacks sufficient funding. They have no finalized arrangement for space at the ports. There does not appear to be any equipment installed or communications lines. No Customs and Border Patrol personnel are present. And there are only 68 days until Nov. 28," Sablan said.

Sablan also told Napolitano that the recently issued E-2 CNMI investor regulations were praiseworthy.

"The E-2 regulations will require that all present investors demonstrate that they have legitimate businesses in the Northern Mariana Islands. I also find it interesting that these investor regulations will even waive fees for investors. This is what we need to do for other people, IRs and permanent residents who also have made a long-term commitment to the Northern Mariana Islands and cannot easily afford the fees for U.S. visas," he said.

But Reyes said the investor regulations are more restrictive. He said the Fitial administration is concerned that the federal government is essentially forcing a small, economically depressed and vulnerable Pacific island economy to meet the standards of the mainland United States economy, the world's largest economy.

"This is not reasonable or realistic. The CNMI must not be forced to bear a burden it cannot bear without devastating economic consequences. The mainland U.S. economy, with its huge population, can afford its federal minimum wage rate and immigration restrictions and regulations. Our situation is dramatically different, yet we are being forced to abide by the same standards, regulatory burdens and conditions," he said.

HOUSE

From Page 1

dent Pete P. Reyes (R-Saipan) has yet to call for a special Senate session to act on the budget bill, barely a week before the start of FY 2010 on Oct. 1.

"I am looking forward to the Senate's action on the bill and to work with them on any amendments they may present," Yumul told *Saipan Tribune* after the voting.

Only 16 of the 20 House members were on island or present in yesterday's session.

Those on excused absence were Floor Leader Joe Camacho (R-Saipan), Rep. Tina Sablan (Ind-Saipan), Rep. Victor Hocog (Ind-Rota), and Rep. Heinz S. Hofschneider (R-Saipan).

The House members who voted "no" on the budget bill were Rep. Oscar M. Babauta (Cov-Saipan), Rep. Ray Palacios (Cov-Saipan), Rep. Stanley Torres (R-Saipan), and Rep. Edwin Aldan (Cov-Tinian).

"I haven't had the chance to totally review it. But it's a simple majority. I know it's going to pass anyway without my vote," Palacios said in an interview.

Voting "yes" were Rep. David Apatang (R-Saipan), Rep. Francisco Dela Cruz (Cov-Saipan), Vice Speaker Joe Deleon Guerrero (R-Saipan), Rep. Justo Quitugua (D-Saipan), Rep. Joe Reyes (R-Saipan), Rep. Ed Salas (R-Saipan), Rep. Rosemond Santos (R-Saipan), Rep. Ralph Torres (R-Saipan), Rep. Ray Tebuteb (R-Saipan), Yumul, and House Speaker Arnold I. Palacios (R-Saipan).

'Warning against negligence'

Apatang offered one of two floor amendments adopted. He provided two specific judgments against the government that should be included in the total $331,081 in budgeted payments. One is for $50,000 and the other is for $90,000.

During discussion on the proposed floor amendment, Yumul said the judgments against the government should serve as "warning," mostly to government doctors and the Commonwealth Health Center.

"We will not tolerate these kinds of things. A simple procedure could end up as a catastrophic [one]," Yumul said during the afternoon session.

Yumul cited *Saipan Tribune*'s recent reports about two lawsuits filed against CHC through attorney Michael Dotts. One was filed on Sept. 16 and involves an alleged wrongful death of an 18-year-old girl who went into cardiac arrest while undergoing tonsils removal in March this year. The other one, filed on Sept. 3, sued CHC after a patient's face was allegedly set on fire while undergoing operation on April 1, 2009.

Quitugua's amendment to the bill was a technical one, and was also approved by the members.

Yumul's budget bill, prefiled on Friday, pumps money into paying the government's $231 million deficient employer contribution to the Retirement Fund, as ordered by a June 29 Superior Court ruling.

Among other things, the budget proposal creates a $3.51 million separate supplemental Retirement Fund account, to be used exclusively for the payment of the difference between the retirement contribution rate of 16 percent and 11 percent for all government employees funded by the general fund.

It lifts Public Law 16-32 or the 2009 budget law's suspension of the remittance to the Retirement Fund of the 30 percent hotel occupancy tax and 20 percent alcoholic beverage container tax.

The bill also lifts the P.L. 16-32 suspension of remittance to the Marianas Visitors Authority of 25 percent of the alcoholic beverage container tax and 70 percent of the hotel occupancy tax.

It also requires remitting unexpended indirect costs for administering federal grants to the Retirement Fund, and any funds not expended by the Office of the Public Auditor.

DPH

From Page 1

res (R-Saipan).

But yesterday's 6pm public hearing on health issues in the cafeteria of Garapan Elementary School went ahead as scheduled, with at least 30 individuals showing up.

Acting Health Secretary Pete Untalan is off-island, while the designated acting secretary, John Tagabuel, didn't send anyone to represent the department in the hearing set for 10am yesterday on Capital Hill. Tagabuel could not be reached for comment. Five other private medical practitioners invited to attend didn't show up.

Torres' office also did not receive any phone call from any of the invitees that they won't be able to attend the hearing.

A survey conducted by Torres's committee cited mismanagement, doctor shortage, inadequate procurement practices, and poor records and billing systems as major concerns at the Commonwealth Health Center.

CHC is one of the component units of DPH.

"They're not here to air their concerns. If they consider health as important, they'd come," he said, adding that the well-being of the community is at stake by not communicating DPH concerns.

When asked whether the no-show of DPH officials will affect the department's budget, Torres said it would not.

A few hours later after the scheduled morning public hearing, the House passed the proposed Fiscal Year 2010 budget.

Subpoena documents

Torres, in an interview, said he will subpoena employment contracts and other documents relating to the hiring practices at CHC. Among other things, he would ask for letters of recruitment, responses, fees and amount already spent hiring a U.S.-based headhunter's firm to recruit physicians for CHC.

The government-run hospital pays $25,000 to the firm for every physician hired at CHC.

"I want to know if they are aggressive in hiring doctors to work at CHC. If they're unable to hire doctors because of low salary, then we want to know how much is needed to be offered to the doctor to get him on board," he said.

The HEW Committee will be meeting today to set the date for an oversight hearing on DPH.

"We will also formulate the questions we will ask during the oversight hearing," he added.

Torres, who is running for senator, said the goal is to improve the delivery of health care and management at DPH. He also encourages DPH unit managers and other officials to communicate more effectively with their employees, and to hire a permanent nursing director.

Just recently, Torres said he became a member of a medical recruitment team at DPH, along with three physicians, the acting health secretary, the human resources manager, and the chief financial officer.

Senate President Pete P. Reyes (R-Saipan) and House Speaker Arnold I. Palacios (R-Saipan) also called on Gov. Benigno R. Fitial to immediately appoint qualified interim managers at CHC before the crisis at the government hospital escalates.

The Fitial administration said it "welcomes" the Legislature's involvement in addressing important public health care issues and looks forward to closely working with the Legislature to meet public health care needs.

GAO sets public meeting on minimum wage hikes

A team of four U.S. Government Accountability Office staff members will visit the CNMI between Sept. 10 and 26 to conduct a study on the impact of the minimum wage increases on local businesses and the economy.

GAO analysts and economists are also contributing to the study.

The team in the CNMI will study the effects of past and future minimum wage increases on employment and on living standards, as mandated by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

GAO encourages community members interested in sharing their views with the team to attend an open public meeting scheduled for tomorrow, Sept. 24, 6:30pm, at the Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe, or by sending an e-mail message to MinimumWageCNMI@gao.gov.

In addition, the team will administer a detailed questionnaire of large employers in the CNMI.

GAO will invite groups of workers from different industries, recipients of public assistance programs, small employers, and other community members to share their perspectives on the minimum wage increases.

The team also will meet with government officials and representatives of the private sector, among others.

In August, members of the team traveled to American Samoa and collected similar types of information.

GAO will issue a report between March 15 and April 15, 2010, with additional reports due each year thereafter until the minimum wage here converges with the federal minimum wage. Members of the public can view or download a copy of the report at http://www.gao.gov. ***(GAO)***

Admin proposal: Lock in Fund's investments at $370M

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The negotiating panel of the Fitial administration has proposed that the Retirement Fund stop withdrawing money from its investments once the portfolio reaches $370 million to ensure the continued existence of the agency.

Any money the Fund may need to sustain operation and issue pensions will be provided by the CNMI government as a means to fulfill its obligation to the Fund.

The Fund's comptroller opposed the proposal, however, saying the value of the Fund's investments fluctuates based on market conditions of the day.

Records obtained by Saipan Tribune show that as of Sept. 30, 2008, the Fund's investment portfolio was valued at $380.2 million but this has significantly gone down since then as a result of withdrawals to cover the pension benefits of members.

The Fund's legal counsel, Viola Alepuyo, reported in yesterday's board meeting that the administration's proposal was brought up during the last month's first meeting with the opposing team.

She said the government team wants the Fund board to approve locking in the agency's investment money at $370 million and stopping drawdowns once the amount is reached to prevent the Fund's assets from deteriorating.

Fund administrator Mark Aguon explained that this means that Fund will be prohibited from making any withdrawals from the investments upon reaching the target figure—regardless of the agency's needs and other obligations.

In case the Fund lacks money for operation and other expenses as a result of stopping withdrawal from its investments, the administration will provide the money for these obligations as part of its "repayment" plan, Aguon said.

The proposal says this will strengthen the lifeline of the Fund, which is predicted to last only up to three years if no new money comes in to the Fund.

Alepuyo said the Fund, among other things, asked the administration for $200,000 per pay period on top of the payment it will make to the Fund. The goal, she said, is to minimize drawdowns and maintain the investment assets of the agency.

Alepuyo also noted some provisions in the budget bill introduced in the House of Representatives this week that will impact the Fund, including the 16 percent employer's contribution rate and some federal funds being eyed to pay part of the government's debt to the Retirement Fund.

Fund comptroller David Demapan told the board yesterday that as of July 2009, the market value of the Fund's investment was at $318.9 million.

That figure, he said, is an improvement of 24 percent in the Fund's investment performance. Last fiscal year, the Fund posted a loss of $31.2 million; latest record shows a loss of $23.6 million.

Demapan said the market contraction to date is in the positive territory. In fact, he added, the unrealized gains exceeded the unrealized losses by $2.6 million.

"This net increase in the fair value of our investment is mainly from our investment in equities," Demapan said.

During the board's deliberation, Demapan expressed opposition to the administration's proposal, citing the "unpredictability" of market conditions.

Acting board chair Pedro Dela Cruz, along with other members, also disagreed with the proposal. However, they emphasized that the idea is just a proposal for the board to consider.

The proposal has been referred to the committee for further discussion and review.

The CNMI Superior Court ruled in June this year that the central government owes the Fund over $231 million in employer's contribution and must pay the obligation depending on what options will be agreed upon by both parties.

No figures have been reached yet by both parties.

part 2
Friday Beefed Up Buffet with the Champions
Get a chance to win a fabulous room and car package including
one PIC Room Night
and a Mustang Convertible
plus many more prizes!
$20.00
per person
Head down to PIC's Seaside Grill Beachfront
for yet another evening of Certified Angus Beef
extravangaza, unlimited beer, wine and cocktails
from the Lite® family plus other delicious treats.
5:30pm to 8pm on September 25, 2009
Make it a date!
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Reservations recommended. Please call 237-5170 or 237-5172
or send via E-mail to fbasst@picsaipan.com.
Miller GENUINE Draft
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HENRY WEINHARD'S PRIVATE RESERVE
CERTIFIED ANGUS BEEF
PACIFIC ISLANDS CLUB

CNMI beaches remain closed due to high surf

The CNMI Emergency Management Office has retained its high surf advisory for the Mariana Islands and all beaches in the CNMI will remain closed until 6pm today, Wednesday.

In an advisory issued yesterday, EMO said the high surf will affect exposed reefs and beaches in the CNMI and produce dangerous rip currents.

The public is strongly advised to avoid venturing near exposed reefs and beaches, especially those along west and north facing reefs as rip currents are life threatening. Boating Safety officers will be patrolling and checking all beaches to ensure that no swimmers and fisherman are venturing out.

Based on information received from the National Weather Service in Tiyan, Guam, high surf reaching 10 to 12 feet were expected along north facing reefs and 8 to 10 feet along west facing reefs yesterday.

"Today, surf will fall to 8 to 10 feet on north facing reefs, and to below hazardous levels on west facing reefs. Surf is expected to drop below hazardous levels on north facing reefs by Wednesday evening," EMO said.

All beaches in the CNMI have been closed since Monday due to dangerous waves brought about by the remnants of Super Typhoon Choi-Wan, which hit the Marianas archipelago last week.

A previous EMO advisory stated that several observers from Guam and Saipan reported seeing high surf along north and west facing reefs. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

'THANK YOU'

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

House Speaker Arnold I. Palacios (R-Saipan), second from left front row, and other lawmakers present a copy of House Resolution 16-98 introduced by Rep. Ray Palacios (Cov-Saipan), left, to Luis A. Reyes and family for their spirit of volunteerism since the early 1980s and their dedication to coaching and educating the youth in the ongoing Rotary Youth Basketball League, during a brief ceremony yesterday on Capital Hill.

Another long-term alien worker sues Labor, Kaipat

Another long-term alien worker has sued the Department of Labor and then acting Labor Secretary Jacinta M. Kaipat over the denial of her request to transfer to another employer.

Eva T. Moises, through lawyer Stephen Woodruff, filed a petition asking the Superior Court to review the orders issued by the Labor Administrative Hearing Office and Kaipat.

Moises asked the court to set aside and vacate the "purported" order that directed her to report to Labor within seven days for repatriation.

Woodruff asserted that Kaipat's "purported order" was not lawfully made or issued. The lawyer said Kaipat's decision was made without observing procedures required by law.

Woodruff said the order was not supported by substantial evidence and does not conform with the law.

Woodruff said his client went through the transfer process and had found a prospective employer. He said the prospective employer filed an Employer Intent Form.

Sometime later, the lawyer said, the prospective employer filed a withdrawal letter with Labor, stating that the company has "enough workers now" and would not hire Moises.

Labor gave Moises more time to find a new employer. After failing to find one within 30 days, Moises asked for another extension. On May 17, 2009, Labor denied her request.

The hearing officer concluded that "no extensions of time are available."

The order further stated that "petitioner has been out of work for a long time and has had a fair opportunity to transfer.'

Moises appealed to the Labor Secretary on June 1, 2009. As then acting Labor Secretary, Kaipat affirmed the hearing officer's decision on July 29, 2009.

Woodruff said, however, that the position of acting Secretary of Labor does not exist in Commonwealth law.

"No appointment of someone to such a position can lawfully be made," Woodruff said. "The function of deciding appeals to the Secretary is non-delegable."

Woodruff had already filed several petitions for judicial review in the Superior Court and federal court on behalf of many long-term alien workers, raising the same issue about Kaipat issuing orders as acting Labor Secretary. The courts have yet to resolve the issue. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

90 students, 22 firms take part in career fair

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Students are interviewed and accommodated by representatives of the Louis Vuitton firm, which was among the 22 companies that joined yesterday's career fair at Saipan World Resort.

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Ninety students from the island's public high schools and 22 companies took part yesterday in the annual career fair of the Public School System.

Held at the Saipan World Resort, Marianas High School teacher-coordinator Tyce Mister said about 60 student participants were from the Cooperative Education and Training Programs of Marianas High School and Kagman High School while the rest were from the three high schools' special education transition programs.

"I'm pleased at how well my students handled themselves when asked challenging interview questions by a representative," Mister said, adding that he was overwhelmed at the positive remarks of company representatives.

"To schedule their first interviews can be exciting, yet the realism hits and students start to get nervous. In the next few days, as the students go through their interviews, they conquer this nervousness and build confidence; it is a different learning experience, an enormous learning experience, that they just can't get out of the classroom," Mister told *Saipan Tribune.*

Businesses too have an eye-opening experience as they are refreshed by the enthusiasm and new ideas the students bring to the table, he added.

The participating companies gave out business cards, brochures and application forms to students and conducted preliminary interviews for possible internships or on-the-job training in their organizations.

Among the businesses that supported the activity were Pacific Islands Club, Sorensen Media Group Saipan, Hyatt Regency Saipan, Office of Adult Probation, Northern Marianas Housing Corp., Fiesta Resort & Spa, Louis Vuitton, Public School System, Saipan World Resort, Commonwealth Development Authority, Tan Holdings, DEQ, NMI Law Revision Commission, Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, Workforce Investment Agency, Commonwealth Utilities Corp., CNMI Superior Court, Clerk of Courts, Joeten Enterprises, Joeten's Ace Hardware, Law Office of Robert Torres, Torres Refrigeration, and Joeten Kiyu Public Library.

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LIMITED TIME
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Achieve your health and fitness goals today!

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- GROUP WELLNESS TRAINING MEMBERSHIP (individual or couple)
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TO ENROLL OR FOR MORE INFORMATION
Call Janna Young at 233-4646 or email at Janna_y@marianashealth.com
Visit us at www.marianashealth.com

INVITATION FOR BIDS
COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION
CUC-IFB-09-030

The Office of the Governor, Benigno R. Fitial and the office of Lt. Governor, Eloy S. Inos through the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation are soliciting scaled bids for the REHABILITATION OF THE SADOG TASI WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

One (1) original and five (5) copies must be submitted in a scaled envelope marked **"CUC-IFB-09-030, REHABILITATION OF THE SADOG TASI WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT"** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor Joeten Dandan, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **Thursday, October 22, 2009** at 10:00 a.m., local time, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions will not be considered.

A bid guarantee of 15 percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury, A performance and payment bond of hundred (100%) percent each of the total proposal price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. Surety companies must hold a certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety for proposal security. The Contractor will be required to submit payment and performance bonds from a U.S. Treasury listed company. No advance payment will be authorized on the project or an Irrevocable Letter of Credit (100% aggregate contract cost/CUC Beneficiary). All insurers questions, concerns and qualification should handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). A Clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

The bidder is required to submit a copy of his CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less that the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page http://www.dol.gov/esa/niinwage/cnmi/cnmi.htm.

This project is funded by a grant from the Office of Insular Affairs (OIA), Department of Interior and from the U.S.-EPA Region IX American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

The Contractor will also be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal laws. Progress payments shall be made to the Contractor.

The project consists, in general, of rehabilitating and upgrading the Sadog Tasi Wastewater Treatment Plant. The work shall be done in sequence as necessary in order not to disrupt the daily operation of the treatment plant. The work is inclusive of rehabilitation of the Belt Filter Press equipment, replacement of pumps, emptying and clean up of all the basins, demolition of air diffuser network and installation of new floating aerators; repair, replacement, rehabilitation of pipeline, manifolds, clarifier mechanism and accessories, etc.

A non-refundable payment of $200 is required for each set of Plans, Specifications, and Proposal Forms, available on or after September 25, 2009 at the Water-Wastewater Division Office, CUC, Saipan. A pre-bid conference for this project is scheduled at 9:00 a.m., on October 5, 2009, at the CUC Conference Room, Saipan. A project site visit and inspection follows the pre-bid meeting.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the interest of the government.

All technical inquiries should be directed to Capt. Robert Lorenz or Christi Lazaro at telephone number (670) 235-7025 and inquiries regarding procurement should be directed to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, Procurement & Supply Manager at the same contact number.

/s/ ANTONIO S. MUNA	/s/ ABE MALAE	/s/ TIMOTHY M. CONNOR
Executive Director	Assistant Executive Director for Operation	Legal Counsel

Saipan, Tinian and Rota!

Join us this SATURDAY morning, September 26, for a fun-filled walk with PSS!

LIVE HEALTHY: Life Walk with PSS

(winning logo design by Winona Maratita, Tinian Junior Senior High School)

Registration Information:

Saipan – 6:30AM, Oleai Beach Pavilion (First 300 to register get a coupon for a T-shirt!)
Tinian – 6:30AM, Tachongna Beach (First 100 to register get a coupon for a T-shirt!)
Rota – 6:30AM, Tete'to (First 100 to register get a coupon for a T-shirt!)

Fitial urges Fund to reconsider suspension of refunds, benefits

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial on Saturday "strongly urged" the NMI Retirement Fund board of trustees to reconsider resolutions restricting employee contribution withdrawals and denying retirement benefits to eligible members.

The board is set to hold its monthly meeting today.

In a two-page letter addressed to NMI Retirement Fund board chair Pedro Dela Cruz, the governor said that, while he admire the board's zeal in upholding its fiduciary duties pertaining to the management of Fund assets, the agency must also be cognizant of the reason for its creation.

Fitial

"The Fund was created to provide a retirement program to retired or otherwise qualified employees of the CNMI government. Depriving the members of the NMIRF of their contributions or their benefits defeats the very purpose for which the Fund was created. As such, it is imperative that the NMIRF (1) allow eligible members to retire and (2) process refunds of employee contributions," Fitial told Dela Cruz.

Fund administrator Mark Aguon said the board will discuss the issue in this morning's meeting.

Fitial, who is currently in Washington, D.C. to meet with Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano on federalization issues, said allowing employees to withdraw contributions is consistent with the board's fiduciary duty of protecting the Fund's solvency.

He said employees who withdraw their contributions eliminate the NMIRF's future liability to those employees and benefit the pension system in the long run, and allowing eligible employees to retire respects employee rights and eliminates litigation risks and liabilities arising from breach of contract or other potential claims against NMIRF.

"Once again, I urge you to reconsider and reverse the board's earlier decision to restrict employee contribution withdrawals and deny retirement benefits to eligible members," the governor said.

There have also been calls from retirees for the NMIRF board to delay until 2010 the suspension of refund payments to members in anticipation of the impact of federalization on Nov. 28.

In July, the NMI Retirement Fund board adopted Resolution 09-003 to cease payment of employee contribution refunds starting Sept. 1.

The decision was made because of the present shaky status of the Fund's investments and upon discovery that some members who had asked for refunds immediately returned to government service within less than the six-month furlough allowed under the law.

The board had also adopted Resolution 09-002, which is non-recognition of retiree adoptions for survivor benefits purposes, also set for implementation on Sept. 1.

The Fund said both decisions were made to protect the Fund's assets for all members by any means necessary until such time as the Fund is no longer in a fiscal emergency.

Over $5 million is being released every year by the Fund for contribution refunds of members.

COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
P.O. Box 502149, Saipan MP 96950
Tel: (670) 234-6245/6293/7145/7146 • Fax: (670) 234-7144 or 235-7147
Email: administration@cda.gov.mp • Website: www.cda.gov.mp

PUBLIC NOTICE
SEPTEMBER 23, 2009

PURSUANT TO PUBLIC LAW 8-41, THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY THRU ITS CHAIRMAN, HEREBY INFORMS THE GENERAL PUBLIC THAT THE CDA BOARD WILL HOLD A SPECIAL MEETING ON THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2009 AT 9:30 A.M. THE MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE CDA CONFERENCE ROOM, SECOND FLOOR, WAKIN'S BUILDING, CHALAN PALE ARNOLD ROAD, SAIPAN. THE AGENDA FOR THIS MEETING IS AS FOLLOWS:

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
1. Roll Call
2. Adoption of Agenda
II. PUBLIC COMMENTS
III. QC PROGRAM/ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES
1. PTI Services, Inc.
IV. OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO
V. ADJOURNMENT

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items. *(Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a)(7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session)*

/s/ PEDRO I. ITIBUS
Chairman, CDA Board of Directors

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP09-DOC-163

SUBMISSION: OCTOBER 21, 2009 TIME: 2:00 P.M.

"IT CONTRACTORS TO CREATE AN AMERICAN RECOVERY & REINVESTMENT ACT (ARRA) OF 2009 REPORTING SYSTEM FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE"

THE RFP PACKAGE MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY IN LOWERBASE, SAIPAN DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS RFP MUST BE SUBMITTED IN WRITING TO GERI WILLIS, ARRA PROGRAM DIRECTOR, VIA E-MAIL TO geri@pticom.com OR FAX TO 1+(670) 664-3067 NO LATER THAN 4:30 P.M., LOCAL TIME, OCTOBER 9, 2009.

THIS IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; AS SUCH, LOCAL PREFERENCE IS NOT AVAILABLE, BECAUSE ITS USE IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW GRANTING FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT.

/s/ MICHAEL ADA
SECRETARY OF COMMERCE

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
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Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.mp

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, through its Chairwoman, hereby gives notice to the general public that the Board will hold a Special Meeting on Thursday, September 24, 2009 at 2:00 p.m. The meeting will be held at the NMHC Conference Room in Garapan, Saipan. The meeting was originally scheduled for Monday, September 14, 2009 but was canceled due to Typhoon Choi-Won. The public is welcome to submit written or oral comments regarding the agenda below. Individuals interested in attending the meeting and needing special accommodations are requested to contact NMHC in advance.

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
A. Call to Order
B. Roll Call

II. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

III. ADOPTION OF MINUTES: September 24, 2008 – Special Meeting
January 24, 2009 – Special Meeting
May 20, 2009 – Special Meeting
August 5, 2009 – Special Meeting

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS

V. MORTGAGE CREDIT PROGRAMS
A. Loans for Approval
B. Verification – Loan Conversion Requests
C. Direct Family Home Loan (DFHL) Assistance

VI. OTHER MATTERS

VII. ADJOURNMENT

NOTE: Pursuant to PL 8-41, Section 13(a)(7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in Executive Session.

/s/ MARCIE M. TOMOKANE
Chairwoman of the Board

NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity lender and employer.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

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NOTE: Pursuant to PL 8-41, Section 13(a)(7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in Executive Session.

/s/ MARCIE M. TOMOKANE
Chairwoman of the Board

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Sept. 23, 1999

Candidates gear up for elections

Political hopefuls have started gearing up. Campaign banners hang everywhere. Debates are around the corner. A total of 70 candidates—18 of them are reelectionists—will race for different positions at stake in the Nov. 6 mid-term elections, according to records from the Board of Elections. Yesterday was the last day for filing of nominating petitions, which will be certified today, according to BOE Executive Director Gregorio Sablan. The Commonwealth's more than 14,000 voters will be choosing among candidates from the Republican Party, Democratic Party, Reform Party, and the Independent block.

Continental's decision worries tour operators

The Northern Marianas would have difficulty recovering from the tourism slump with the decision of Continental Micronesia to remove all its direct flights from various cities in Japan to Saipan, according to Japan Saipan Travel Association. In fact, more Japanese now would prefer to go to Guam than Saipan as they have always shunned waiting for more than 30 minutes to take a 30-minute connecting flight to Saipan, said Iwao Sakai, general manager of R&C Tours. Continental Micronesia will drop its Nagoya-Saipan flight on Oct. 1, 1999, the airline's last remaining nonstop service between Japan and the CNMI, claiming continuous decline in the traffic.

Sept. 23, 2002

NMIRF sued for denying benefits

Officials of the Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund were slapped with a lawsuit for denying disability retirement benefits and for failure to decide promptly on an appeal by a former Public School System psychologist allegedly suffering from brain injury. Named defendants to the lawsuit were Fund administrator and chief executive officer Karl T. Reyes, the Fund's Board of Trustees, and the Fund itself. They were sued in their official capacities. Fifty-three-year-old Valerie Veres, in her complaint for judicial review of agency action filed with the Superior Court, also said she was notified that her employment with the PSS would not be renewed after the expiration of her contract last April 9. Her employment with the PSS was terminated effective August 9.

Fire, floods displace families

A family of four was temporarily displaced from their home after the wooden structure was totally gutted by fire Saturday night, the American Red Cross said. The family, which includes two children aged 13 and 14, are temporarily housed at the Red Cross' local headquarters on Airport Road as of press time. Ironically, the house that was burned down was reportedly provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency years ago. This came just as 13 persons who were evacuated by the Red Cross during Friday's flashfloods went back to their respective homes yesterday morning, said Red Cross emergency services director Ariel Dumapit.

Sept. 23, 2003

CNMI gets $10M from Bush

The CNMI government received a $10-million allotment for two fiscal years beginning this year from the Bush administration under the Jobs and Growth Tax Relief Reconciliation Act. The government, through the Governor's Office, received the initial $5 million grant last June. It expects to get the remaining amount of another $5 million on Oct. 1, 2003. Based on the program, the financial year 2003 funding was allotted for the Northern Marianas College' Pacific Gateway project ($2 million), port-to-park pedestrian walkway ($400,000), grounds maintenance equipment/AT restroom and site work ($300,000), and cash reserve $2.3 million.

Disaster preparedness program urged

All schools in the Commonwealth are urged to participate in a disaster preparedness program that would raise the level of alertness among students and teachers in time of man-made and natural calamities. This is in light of the weeklong observance of the CNMI Disaster Preparedness Week, which was endorsed yesterday by Gov. Juan N. Babauta during a simple ceremony at the Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe. During the week of September 22-26, 2003, hazmat response and special response team demonstration and earthquake/fire drills would be held at different schools. As a kick-off, the Hazmat/SRT drill will be held at the Marianas High School at 9am today.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

MHS Community Council sets meeting

The Marianas High School Community Council will hold its first meeting of the school year on Wednesday, Sept. 23, 2009, at 5:30pm in the MHS cafeteria. The MHS Community Council functions as the school's PTA. In addition to parents and teachers, the community council includes student representatives, alumni, and community leaders. All parents and legal guardians are invited to attend. If you have any questions, call MHS at 237-3206. ***(PR)***

Beginners' conversational Korean classes at NMC

The Korean Cultural Center - Korean Language School has developed KSL (Korean as Second Language) and KTL (Korean as Third Language) programs. And the Center provides Beginners' classes at Northern Marianas College as a CDI program. Anyone interested in learning the Korean language can join the October classes. It's almost free. If you are too busy to come during working hours, just call for the free visit-registration service. The proposed class time is on Tuesday or Friday, but it can be changed according to the situation of the participants and the details will be announced later. For more information, contact Daniel Huh at 285-2221, e-mail: korean2221@gmail.com.

Dog found

A large brown and white male dog, approximately 1.5-2 years old, was found in the Papago area on Saturday morning. He is very gentle and friendly. If you or someone you know is missing a dog that fits this description, please contact PAWS at 285-PAWS. You may also claim the dog at Paradise Island Animal Hospital, which located on Middle Road, or by calling 234-9669. ***(PAWS)***

Radio talk show to feature Guerrero-Camacho team

The Chamorro radio talk show program called "Marianas Agupa," hosted by Glenn H. Manglona, will feature Juan "Pan" Guerrero and Joseph N. Camacho, on Magic 100.3 FM on Saturday, Sept. 26, 2009, from 9am to 11am in the morning. Discussions will be on social, economic, political, and cultural issues facing the Commonwealth today. The phone line at the radio station will be open for question during the show. Tune in for more on Magic 100.3 FM this Saturday between 9am and 11am. Live Internet broadcast on www.magic100radio.com will also be available. ***(PR)***

Nepalese community marks Happy Vijaya Dashami

Happy Vijaya Dashami is one of the biggest festival of the Nepalese community. All Nepalese nationals on Saipan, Tinian and Rota are invited to this auspicious occasion on Sept. 27, 2009, 5pm, at the Main Pavilion of the Tachogna Beach in San Jose Village, Tinian. Those who intend to participate should register before Sept. 25, 2009. For more information, contact Bal Keishna Thapa Magar at 287-8220 or Kedar Bahadur Shrestha at 287-0239. ***(PR)***

Notice to all candidates for political office

The Office of the Public Auditor will be conducting presentations on campaign finance and reporting on the islands of Rota and Saipan. The dates and times for each of the presentations are as follows:

■ Rota: Friday, Sept. 25, 2009, 5:30pm to 7:30pm, Northern Marianas College-Rota Instructional Site, Building B - Room B2

■ Saipan: Tuesday, Oct. 6, 2009, 5:30pm to 7:30pm, Multi-Purpose Center, Susupe.

Given the statutory restrictions relating to campaign spending and reporting, all candidates and their treasurers are strongly urged to attend. For more information, call OPA at 322-6481/2. ***(OPA)***

John Gonzales Live schedule

■ Sept. 23: LIVE – Replays 9/27 and 9/28 @ 7-8 pm

Beach Road Corridor Revitalization and Adult Business Overlay Zoning Projects. Guests: Henry S. Hofschneider, Saipan Zoning board chairman; Victor Barrett, Saipan Zoning administrator; Joe Limes, Saipan Zoning board member.

■ Sept. 30: LIVE – Replays 10/4 and 10/5 @ 7-8 pm

Featuring Covenant Party Precinct III candidates' vision and platform. Guests: Felicidad 'Daling' Ogumoro, Edmund S. Villagomez, Jesus Elameto, David R. Maratita, and Henry K. Rabauliman.

Shows air on KSPN Channel 2; LIVE Text: 285-META; LIVE Call: 287-4230; E-mail: johngonzales@pticom.com. ***(PR)***

Marriage Encounter Weekend set

Help turn a good marriage into a great marriage through a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend! The CNMI's next Marriage Encounter Weekend will be on Oct. 16 – 18, 2009, at the Saipan Grand Hotel. Cost is $50 per couple. For further information or a registration form, contact any of the following:

■ John & Carol Hosono (Tel: 286-4997; e-mail: johnhosono@gmail.com)

■ Jun & Linda Pangelinan (Tel: 483-4111; e-mail: linpangelinan@gmail.com)

■ John & Vicky Mafnas (Tel: 285-8454; e-mail: vbmafnas@yahoo.com)

■ Fr. Ike Ayuyu (Tel: 234-8888; e-mail: ikeayuyu@gmail.com)

■ Vince & Hilma Castro (Tel: 287-8089; e-mail: hilmacastrome@gmail.com)

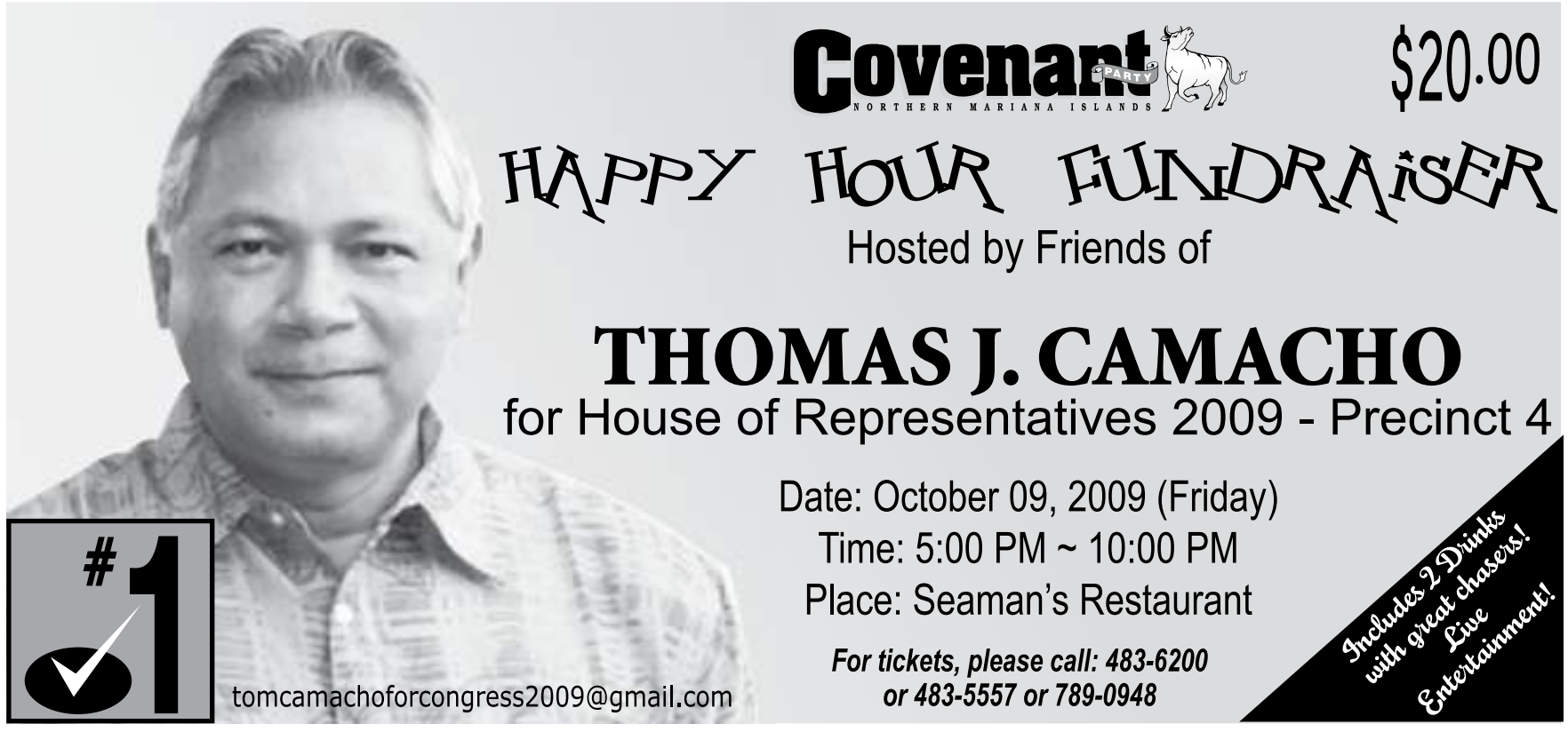
Census 2010 JVAs extended

In order to allow potential applicants more time to submit applications for the 16 census 2010 positions opening up on October 1, 2009, the Department of Commerce has requested that the Office of Personnel Management extend the deadline for submissions, from the original date of Sept. 5, to the new deadline of Sept. 11, 2009. All potential applicants are encouraged to submit their applications to OPM and direct all pertinent questions regarding the positions to that office. ***(PR)***

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy birthday to grandma/mom Ellen C. Santos! Hope you have a wonderful day and may you have many more birthdays to come! We love you! Greetings come from family and friends.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



SHIPPING SCHEDULE

MARIANA EXPRESS LINES PTE. LTD.

Outbound from Asia	Voyage No.	ETD Jakarta	ETD Bangkok	ETD P. Kelang	ETD Melbourne	ETD Singapore	ETD Hochiminh	ETD Busan	ETD Kobe	ETD Shanghai	ETD Auckland	ETD Manila	ETD Hongkong	ETD Kaoshiung	ETD Naha
MELL SENTOSA	026E	9/12 Sat	9/10 Thu	9/10 Thu	9/8 Tue	9/5 Sat	9/18 Fri	9/14 Mon	9/13 Sun	9/6 Sun	9/6 Sun	9/14 Mon	9/18 Fri	9/20 Sun	9/22 Tue
MELL SEMBAWANG	019E	9/19 Sat	9/17 Thu	9/17 Thu	9/15 Tue	9/12 Sat	9/25 Fri	9/21 Mon	9/20 Sun	9/13 Sun	9/13 Sun	9/21 Mon	9/25 Fri	9/27 Sun	9/29 Tue
MELL SENOKO	028E	9/26 Sat	9/24 Thu	9/24 Thu	9/22 Tue	9/19 Sat	10/2 Fri	9/28 Mon	9/27 Sun	9/20 Sun	9/20 Sun	9/28 Mon	10/2 Fri	10/4 Sun	10/6 Tue
MELL SENTOSA	027E	10/3 Sat	10/1 Thu	10/1 Thu	9/29 Tue	9/26 Sat	10/9 Fri	10/5 Mon	10/4 Sun	9/27 Sun	9/27 Sun	10/5 Mon	10/9 Fri	10/11 Sun	10/13 Tue
MELL SEMBAWANG	020E	10/10 Sat	10/8 Thu	10/8 Thu	10/6 Tue	10/3 Sat	10/16 Fri	10/12 Mon	10/11 Sun	10/4 Sun	10/4 Sun	10/12 Mon	10/16 Fri	10/18 Sun	10/20 Tue
MELL SENOKO	029E	10/17 Sat	10/15 Thu	10/15 Thu	10/13 Tue	10/10 Sat	10/23 Fri	10/19 Mon	10/18 Sun	10/11 Sun	10/11 Sun	10/19 Mon	10/23 Fri	10/25 Sun	10/27 Tue

Inbound from Asia	Voyage No.	ETA Guam	ETD Guam	ETA Saipan	ETA Yap	ETA Koror	ETA Davao	ETA GenSan	ETA Cebu	ETA Hongkong	ETA Kaoshiung	ETA Busan	ETA Yokohama	ETA Manila	ETA Singapore
MELL SENTOSA	026E	9/26 Sat	9/27 Sun	9/27 Sun	SKIP	9/30 Wed	10/2 Fri	10/4 Sun	SKIP	10/9 Fri	10/10 Sat	10/15 Thu	11/3 Tue	10/18 Sun	10/14 Wed
MELL SEMBAWANG	019E	10/3 Sat	10/4 Sun	10/4 Sun	10/6 Tue	10/7 Wed	10/9 Fri	10/11 Sun	SKIP	10/16 Fri	10/17 Sat	10/22 Thu	11/10 Tue	10/25 Sun	10/21 Wed
MELL SENOKO	028E	10/10 Sat	10/11 Sun	10/11 Sun	SKIP	10/14 Wed	10/16 Fri	10/18 Sun	SKIP	10/23 Fri	10/24 Sat	10/29 Thu	11/17 Tue	11/1 Sun	10/28 Wed
MELL SENTOSA	027E	10/17 Sat	10/18 Sun	10/18 Sun	10/20 Tue	10/21 Wed	10/23 Fri	10/25 Sun	SKIP	10/30 Fri	10/31 Sat	11/5 Thu	11/24 Tue	11/8 Sun	11/4 Wed
MELL SEMBAWANG	020E	10/24 Sat	10/25 Sun	10/25 Sun	SKIP	10/28 Wed	10/30 Fri	11/1 Sun	SKIP	11/6 Fri	11/7 Sat	11/12 Thu	12/1 Tue	11/15 Sun	11/11 Wed
MELL SENOKO	029E	10/31 Sat	11/1 Sun	11/1 Sun	11/5 Thu	11/4 Wed	11/6 Fri	11/8 Sun	SKIP	11/13 Fri	11/14 Sat	11/19 Thu	12/8 Tue	11/22 Sun	11/18 Wed

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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MEMBER
The Associated Press Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

School lunch punch

Chidren are back in school. For many, that means regular meals as part of the federally subsidized school lunch program. Unfortunately, it also means, too often, food that isn't good for them.

We're encouraged that there is a growing movement to do something about that.

The Child Nutrition Act, which supplies breakfast and lunch to some 31 million students at an annual cost of $12 billion, is up for reauthorization by Congress next month. The timing is propitious: President Obama has signaled his interest by including an extra $1 billion in his 2010 budget proposal for school food improvements, and his administration is formulating policies said to be aimed at improving the nutrition and ultimately the health of children. Michelle Obama has made healthier eating a signature issue, using the White House garden as a way to engage children in the importance of fruits and vegetables. Businesses and private foundations are getting in on the act: Whole Foods Market, for example, has teamed with Chef Ann Cooper, the nation's "renegade lunch lady," to raise money and awareness and to provide practical advice.

Key to the movement is revising the nation's outdated nutrition guidelines, giving the Agriculture Department more clout to regulate the a la carte foods that children buy and, of course, coming up with the money that school officials need to cover the cost of quality ingredients, train staff and provide proper facilities. Most systems get $2.68 for each free lunch; Ms. Cooper argues that an additional dollar per day per child is needed.

There's no denying the enormous financial pressures facing the nation—even without undertaking costly health-care reforms. But there is also no denying that what children are eating today carries its own costs in the form of increased obesity, incidences of diabetes and earlier deaths.

(c) 2009, The Washington Post

Dealing with federal ambiguities

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

There's sublime interest in the umpteen number of czars surrounding President Obama. These are folks who never had to undergo the vetting process. Yet they engage in policy formulations that eventually take on the stature of federal laws, laws that never received scrutiny by the U.S. Congress, the national policymaking body. This is very dangerous in that it plays right into the hands of socialists in their apparent carte blanche creation of The New Republic.

In the U.S. Congress, you will also find like-minded liberals (U.S. congressional staffers) who believe that government is the ultimate answer to all our miseries. Their agenda would destroy the foundation I've learned about rugged Americanism of dreaming big, working hard, building a strong sense of community, as you earn and keep your dues. This is the most salient point that I've learned of our country's long journey to success. It is this time-honored success story that is being ripped apart by liberals who have shoved aside all the principles and foundation that played key roles in the development of the individual and collective greatness of our country.

Now, the people behind the formulation of the new federalization law are those whose background we know nothing about. They have become the czars (staffers) of the U.S. Congress whose authority even impugn upon the spirit and letter of the Covenant agreement accountability. It would be interesting to find out if these czars have any credentials (academic or experience) on developmental economics or demonstrate to us that they have cornered the wisdom of successful development of fragile island economies. But the fear I have is the absence of such requisite background. In fact, no one from both sides of the Pacific divide has the requisite credentials on this issue. Therefore, it is more the reason to refrain from imposing laws riddled with ambiguities.

A lot comes to mind with respect to my position in the early '70s regarding what is now a very dysfunctional relationship. It is a relationship that allows liberals to rework and tailor the Covenant Agreement to their liking at will. And they do so with complete arrogance as though our views and sentiments really don't matter at all. There's the obvious neglect of what we've given up in 1975 (sovereignty) in exchange for some hopeful political relationship with the federal government. It is this arrogance and obvious trashing of our sentiments in recent past that present a microcosm of what our future relationship would be. It isn't promising nor does it give the indigenous people any iota of hope that this dysfunctional marriage would eventually work itself out. How I wish I could yell out even mistakenly, "Change we can believe in!" It's change so designed to degrade our dignity as we take their command and control instructions, "Don't watch what we do, but do what we tell you to do."

But there's the future to look forward to on how new paradigms may offer hope, confidence and credence in a very suspect and dysfunctional relationship. If in the end we have to make perfectly clear statements, then we must do so with resolve to point out to our less than friendly nemesis or czars in Washington that we can only tolerate so much. If we have to leave the union via a semi-independent relationship then this we must do to retain our dignity even as ostracized citizens of the U.S. of A. I don't regret stating my case, given that it is very American to freely, though responsibly express your views. I ask: How much longer would we, the indigenous, be victims of someone else's newly found Zoo Theory? No, this is as far as we go! The destruction of our very essence as the indigenous people of these isles is totally unacceptable.

■ ■ ■

It's sad to read of the "Valley of Hope," a farming community in California that produces about 12 percent of our country's food products. The shutdown of its water source has resulted in 40 percent unemployment and a very long line at the food stamps and unemployment offices. The water closure, via a court ruling, favored the protection of salmon and fish. The justices forgot about the livelihood of farmers. The governor would seek federal assistance.

It is an issue where the likes of Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Congressman George Miller need to exercise some political agility or they too would be history in next year's midterm election. They too have lost political capital and this should be one fond farewell for people who no longer have meaningful relationships with their constituents. How sad the impending consequences of disconnect!

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

SAIPANPRENEUR PROFILE

Chang, Yoon Suk of 'D System' Interior Design and Realty

The only way to take control of your life, raise your standard of living and move beyond merely surviving is to create your own unique product or service that you offer to increasing numbers of people in exchange for the things of value that you desire. This simple formula applies to countries as well as people. A self-sufficient economy has its own products or services of value to export to the world. Similarly, a self-sufficient individual has something of value to exchange in the global marketplace. That thing of value is based on your natural talent, skill, or interest—in other words, your passion!

The Saipanpreneur Project

Creating economic success for the CNMI

By WALT F.J. GOODRIDGE
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Send article suggestions, entrepreneur nominations and feedback about this article to walt@passionprofit.com.

Up the spiral staircase, above ABC Store, and across from Ocean's Bar on the Paseo de Marianas, you'll discover a unique new business with a uniquely inspired visionary at the helm. His name is Chang, Yoon Suk, a Korean-born, Saipan-raised entrepreneur, and his mission is to bring a new level of modern design, increased property value and real estate prosperity to homeowners in the CNMI.

During a revealing interview, Chang and I spoke about his "colorful" childhood in the CNMI school system, his eclectic work experience in Korea, his time as a starving student at the University of Guam, the recent passing of his mother and the profound effect that has had on him, the reasons for Korea's rise as a leader in construction, his passion for creativity, and the culmination of his private and long-held dream.

Walt: When did you come to Saipan?

Chang: My mother and father came here in 1988, along with me…all of us except my older sister, who is in Korea.

Walt: Where did you go to school?

Chang: Well, I went to several schools here on Saipan [his smile reveals there's more to that story], but I graduated from Grace Christian Academy.

After Grace Christian, I worked at Tasi Tours for two years and a half, and I took some classes at NMC after work. I then decided to continue my education, so I went to Guam and attended the University of Guam. I stayed on Guam for four years and a half, and majored in Business Management.

Walt: And your work experience?

Chang: After UOG, I went to Korea and worked for an amusement park—Lotte World Amusement Park and Seoul Land Amusement Park from 1999 to 2001. I was hired to create the molds for the oversized costumes for the different characters. *[Like the SaiPanda full body costume]* Then I worked for an interior design company for a year. Then a construction company for another year, where I worked on a resort project.

Then I returned to Saipan in 2004, and helped my mom in her property management business. After my mom passed away, I was depressed for a while. I started to think about how I could take care of my mom's property, continue her hard work and build something for myself.

WALT GOODRIDGE

Chang, Yoon Suk, a Korean-born, Saipan-raised entrepreneur, owns 'D System' Interior Design and Realty, which is located above ABC Store, and across from Ocean's Bar on the Paseo de Marianas.

Walt: Tell me about your business background.

Chang: After I lost my mom, and started taking care of the property, I realized that everybody was having trouble with their plumbing like we were, and realized that a plumbing business was a good business to be in. So, in 2007, I started a plumbing company. I visited many houses, learned about the sewer system, plumbing, electricity, and I saw directly what was missing, and what was needed here on Saipan. But I wanted to learn more, to see what kinds of things Americans and locals liked in their homes. I wanted to check all the houses outside and inside. So I started working for a real estate company at the same time.

Walt: What inspired you to start "D System?"

Chang: From what I saw in the homes on Saipan, we need more than just construction and repair. We need someone here doing and teaching real estate and renovation. That's the best way for the average person to help be a part of the economic development of the island.

Homeowners here on Saipan depend on the construction knowledge of the contractors here on the island. But those contractors are not bringing in new techniques and new materials from the outside. They are not thinking about real estate values, and economic development. The hotels do, but the average homeowners usually can't afford to. Yes, there are some beautiful houses on Saipan, but the average homeowner, they never think about those things. I wanted to bring a more modern style to Saipan—new skills, new designs, new materials. In Korea, they are making amazing new products and exporting it all over the world—to the Middle East, the States, Japan and Europe.

To improve my skill, I watched the home improvement shows on television. HGTV [Home and Garden Television], that was a big influence, a really awesome channel. You invest in your house and property, raise the property value, and then "flip" your home (sell it for more than you paid and invested), or charge higher rent. It's a simple formula, but very powerful.

Walt: I agree. I'm getting inquiries from people who are moving to Saipan for retirement, or new job assignments. There's a new opportunity for people with well-kept homes to lease or rent.

Chang: Yes, a lot of local people are leaving, looking for higher wages in other places, and just close their homes. They think their property is not important for now. But, if they knew more about real estate and how to improve the property without spending a lot of money, it could really benefit them even while they are away. You invest $3,000 in your house, you raise the value by $7,000.

Walt: So what does "D System" offer?

Chang: We are a one stop shop:

1. I do construction, interior design and landscaping. Furthermore, they can get real estate information from me too.

2. I offer new materials and ideas that are popular in many other countries.

3. *[After much coaxing on my part, Chang reveals:]* I am an amazing talent for design! My ideas are different. I take the exterior concept and bring them inside. I use recyclables for interiors. I'm interested in other cultures, and incorporate what Americans like, what Europeans like, what Asians like, everybody. I know how to use the materials to get the most effect.

From his office and design area on an indoor deck overlooking his "Pagan Garden" with rocks from the island of Pagan [(see photo] Chang shows me wall coverings that simulate expensive wood and brick interiors, acetate film that tints or turns windows into one way glass (use as a unique shower curtain! You can see out, but they can't see in!), decks, interior gardens, all using the latest, fire resistant, humidity-safe, eco-friendly materials from Korea.

Walt: You've started businesses by recognizing needs and filling them. But, what's your passion?

Chang: What I do here is very complex. I do the design, handle the documentation for permits. It's also hard physical work—working in the sun all the time. I never get to wear good shirts and good shoes. I look like a construction worker all the time! But, after I finish the house, and people like my work, I never regret the amount of effort I put into this.

After interviewing Chang for two hours, I still wasn't satisfied that I had truly captured the essence of what was actually transpiring in his heart and mind, and through his business, but we ended the interview. Photographers will often tell you that they get their best photos of people when those people believe the photo shoot is over and the camera is off. Similarly, it was after the interview ended, and my laptop was closed, while "shooting the breeze," that the truly magical insights started surfacing. Chang recounts a funny tale about cooking and serving Korean food for his American, Hawaiian and Japanese roommates after a typhoon, while on Guam, watching them eat his traditional food in non-traditional ways, and how it inspired him to learn pottery-making so he could create unique containers for different cultural dining styles.

Walt: As you talk about pottery, sculpture and as I look around your office, I have to ask: is this construction, or is it art?

Chang: Art. This is art. When I design a space, I really think about the shapes. It should be nice and perfectly shaped, but natural. I know how to "follow my eye." When I do the landscaping, I think about lines and shapes, and colors, and heights, and relationships. When I design a space, I see everything in relationship to something else. Big things affect little things, and little things affect big things. You have to design a space to fill many needs and many conditions. The people are moving, children are growing, the weather changes—all have an effect on what you need to do to make that space the best it can be.

Even when there is nothing there, it's still design. Artists talk about designing the empty space. The usable part of the house—the part you actually live in—is the empty space. The technical stuff about the materials is easy to learn. There are product brochures and manuals you can study. But what I'm doing with them is drawing, sculpting, imagining and creating something that doesn't exist.

Running a business is also an art—it's about imagination and creation. I never think about a business plan as flat description on a piece of paper. In my mind, I visualize the relationship between the companies, the staff, the products, the customers. I see it the same way I see designing. The company is like the sun, the products, the people are all like planets around the sun, everything is moving, everything is affecting each other. Little things affect big things. You add just one flower, one plant to your apartment, and you can see the big difference.

Because I did ceramic sculpture, I realize that containers are an important part of the experience. I know what containers people like to eat from. Your home is just another container, but for your life. Your comfort is the experience. I am like a sculptor who can make everyday life in your home like a fine dining experience!

Visit the D System showroom on the Paseo de Marianas for renovation ideas and a free consultation. Call (670) 233-8383, or e-mail ysc3229@hanmail.net. (View amazing before and after photos at www.saipanliving.com/dsystem

■ ■ ■

ANNOUNCEMENT! Walt's Saipan Writers Passion to Profit Workshop will take place on Sunday, September 27th from 1:00pm to 4:00pm at the Northern Marianas Trades Institute in Lower Base. Visit www.saipantext.com for details.

Note: Fans and followers of the book, *Chicken Feathers and Garlic Skin: Diary of a Chinese Garment Factory Girl on Saipan* may now request copies here on Saipan by emailing me walt@passionprofit.com, or Amazon.com.

***Note**: Ever wanted to direct your friends and family to a set of websites that said good things about Saipan? Do what I do: send them to www.bestofsaipan.com!*

■ ■ ■

Until next week, remember, success is a journey, not a destination!

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*Walt F.J. Goodridge is author of 15 books including T*urn Your Passion Into Profit*. Walt offers coaching and workshops to help people pursue and profit from their passions. Originally from the island of Jamaica, Walt has grown several successful businesses in the US, and now makes his home here in Saipan. To learn more about the Saipanpreneur Project and Walt's philosophy and formula visit www.saipanpreneur.com and www.passionprofit.com.*

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲89° ▼78°	▲89° ▼78°	▲89° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°

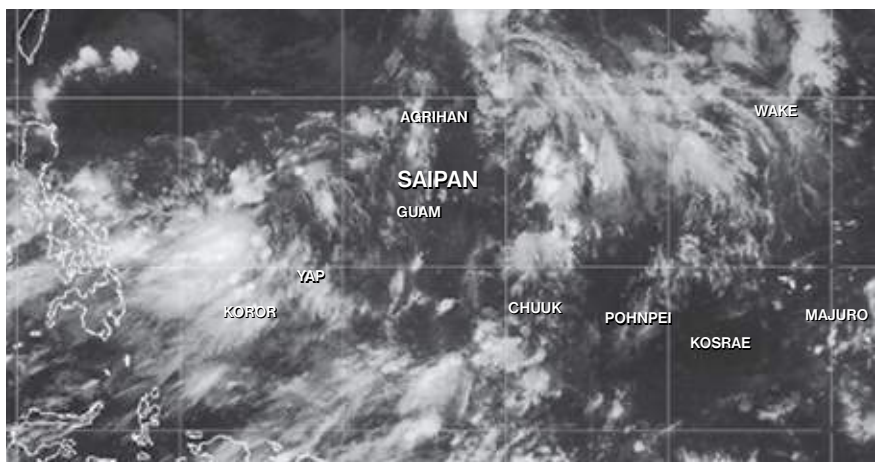
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Showers	▲85	▼77
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼78
Yap	Rain	▲84	▼77
Chuuk	Showers	▲88	▼77
Pohnpei	Partly Sunny	▲89	▼75
Kosrae	Showers	▲85	▼79
Majuro	Rain	▲85	▼78

Around The Globe

Auckland	Rain	▲63	▼61
Beijing	Partly Sunny	▲78	▼60
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲88	▼81
Honolulu	Partly Sunny	▲85	▼76
London	Showers	▲68	▼50
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲100	▼70
Manila	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼77
Melbourne	Showers	▲62	▼48
Miami	Thundrshowers	▲90	▼79
New York	Cloudy	▲82	▼67
Osaka	Showers	▲79	▼66
Paris	Mostly Sunny	▲74	▼56
Pusan	Showers	▲81	▼62
Rome	Mostly Sunny	▲79	▼63
Salem	Sunny	▲95	▼50
San Francisco	Cloudy	▲86	▼56
Seoul	Partly Sunny	▲79	▼53
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	▲75	▼66
Washington, DC	Thunderstorms	▲83	▼68

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2009

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A monsoon trough extends eastward from the northern Philippines through 18N130E to a weak circulation near 17N132E and northeastward through the northern Mariana Islands to a small unnumbered tropical depression located near 22N150E west of the Mariana Islands. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are located along and south of the trough axes primarily between 17N and 6N. The islands of Palau and Yap are located along the southern end of this activity. Northeast of the Marianas the tropical depression at 22N150E is found embedded within a trough of low pressure that extends to the north along 150E southwest along the monsoon trough and southeast towards 17N162 just west of Wake Island. The scattered showers and pockets of isolated thunderstorms are being influenced by the motion and activity along the periphery of an upper level low pressure system near 25N161E. This activity is visible on satellite imagery from 18N to 25N between 148E and 152E and also from 14N to 22N between 150E and 162E. A less organized area of scattered showers and some very isolated thunderstorms is located well south of the Marianas between Yap and Chuuk between the equator and 5N from 138E to 152E. This region is being influenced by weak low-level westerly flow and a small circulation located near 8N147E. Enhanced trade-wind convergence associated with a weak trough of low pressure is bringing scattered showers and some isolated thunderstorms into the Marshall Islands. These showers were located primarily between 170E and 180 from 4N to 10N with a few extending south to the equator. This activity includes Majuro.

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
4:36 AM Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet
11:21 AM Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
4:55 PM Today	Low Tide:	1.0 Feet
9:52 PM Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:06 AM	6:13 PM
Thursday	6:06 AM	6:12 PM
Friday	6:06 AM	6:11 PM
Saturday	6:06 AM	6:10 PM
Sunday	6:06 AM	6:10 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	9:57 AM	9:25 PM
Thursday	10:52 AM	10:16 PM
Friday	11:46 AM	11:07 PM
Saturday	12:37 AM	
Sunday	1:24 PM	12:00 AM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

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- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF SEPTEMBER 23, 2009

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

C09597	11:50am	12:25pm	1, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM

C09597	12:50pm	1:20pm	1, 7

SAIPAN-GUAM

C09317	4:20am	5:10am	Daily
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
C09597	11:50am	1:20pm	1, 7 via ROP
C09601	12:30pm	1:20pm	4, 5
C09603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
C09605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
C09599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

C0941	5:30am	8:05am	Daily
NW99	6:05am	8:40am	Daily
NW78	9:00am	2:05pm	Daily via NGO
NW75	3:50pm	6:25pm	Daily
C0943	5:25pm	8:00pm	Daily

SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)

OZ119	4:00am	6:40am	1, 3, 4, 6

SAIPAN-NAGOYA (NGO)

NW78	9:00am	11:40am	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ604	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ604	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ119	4:00am	11:20am	1, 3, 4, 6 via KIX
OZ606	3:30pm	7:00pm	4, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

CZ3008	3:30am	6:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA

OZ604/701	2:20am	11:25am	1 via ICN
OZ604/703	2:50am	11:25am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C09603/933	3:30pm	8:40pm	Daily via GUM
C09599/PR111	9:30pm	7:45am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG

OZ604/721	2:20am	11:45am	1 via ICN
OZ604/721	2:50am	11:45am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

C09598	3:15am	3:50am	5, 6
C09312	1:20pm	1:55pm	6

GUAM-ROTA (ROP)

C09598	2:10am	2:40am	5, 6
C09312	12:10pm	12:40pm	6

GUAM-SAIPAN

C09598	2:10am	3:50am	5, 6 via ROP
C09316	2:20am	3:10am	1, 2, 3, 4, 7
C09596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
C09600	10:20am	11:10am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
C09312	12:10pm	1:55pm	6 via ROP
C09602	2:00pm	2:50pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
C09606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

C0942	9:25am	1:55pm	Daily
NW76	10:00am	2:35pm	Daily
NW77	6:35pm	1:40am+1	Daily via NGO
NW100	8:45pm	1:20am+1	Daily

OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN

OZ120	9:55pm	2:20am+1	2, 3, 5, 7

NAGOYA (NGO)-SAIPAN

NW77	9:10pm	1:40am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	4, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ605	9:00am	2:30pm	4, 7
OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	2, 3, 5, 7 via KIX
OZ603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ603	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

CZ3007	7:30pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

MANILA-SAIPAN

OZ702/603	12:45pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/603	12:45pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/C09596	10:00pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
C0934/9596	10:55pm	7:50am+1	Daily via GUM
OZ704/605	11:50pm	2:30pm+1	3, 6 via ICN

HONG KONG-SAIPAN

OZ724/605	12:30am	2:30pm	4, 7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

Business

Census: Recession had sweeping impact on US life

WASHINGTON (AP)—The recession is profoundly disrupting American life: More people are delaying marriage and homebuying, turning to carpools yet getting stuck in ever-worse traffic, staying put rather than moving to new cities.

ON THE NET
Census Bureau: http://www.census.gov

A broad array of U.S. census data, for release on Tuesday, also shows a dip in the foreign-born population last year, to under 38 million after it reached an all-time high in 2007. This was due to declines in low-skilled workers from Mexico searching for jobs in Arizona, Florida and California.

Health coverage swung widely by region, based partly on levels of unemployment. Massachusetts, with its universal coverage law, had fewer than one in 20 uninsured residents—the lowest in the nation. Texas had the highest share, at one in four, largely because of illegal Hispanic immigrants excluded from government-sponsored and employer-provided plans.

Demographers said the latest figures were striking confirmation of the social impact of the economic decline as it hit home in 2008. Findings come from the annual American Community Survey, a sweeping look at life built on information from 3 million households.

Preliminary data earlier this year found that many Americans were not moving, staying put in big cities rather than migrating to the Sunbelt because of frozen lines of credit. Mobility is at a 60-year low, upending population trends ahead of the 2010 census that will be used to apportion House seats.

AP
In this Sept. 9, 2009, file photo Kian Lee, right, and his bride Maya Ong, both from Queens, pose for a photo after their wedding ceremony at the Manhattan Marriage Bureau in New York.

Leading economic indicators rise in August

NEW YORK (AP)—A private forecast of economic activity rose in August for the fifth straight month, the latest sign the recession has ended. The Conference's Board leading indicators point to an economy on solid ground early next year, though some analysts caution that a rising unemployment rate will restrain growth.

The Conference Board said Monday its index of leading indicators rose 0.6 percent in August. That follows a 0.9 percent gain in July revised up from 0.6 percent. Economists surveyed by Thomson Reuters had expected an 0.7 percent gain last month.

The indicators are designed to project economic activity in the next three to six months. The August results support many analysts' projections that the economy started growing again in the current July-September quarter and will continue to gain in the fourth quarter.

Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke last week said the recession was "very likely over."

The recession's end "is no longer a source of heated discussion ... but whether or not the economy can keep grinding forward (and at what speed) is still a big question mark," Jennifer Lee, an economist at BMO Capital Markets, wrote in a note to clients Monday.

Some analysts worry that any current economic growth will falter as unemployment rises from the August rate of 9.7 percent to above 10 percent. But the leading indicators provided a rosier outlook for next year, said Bank of America Merrill Lynch analyst Ethan Harris.

"This is good news, no question about it," he said. "The data's more of an argument against the so-called double dip. They're all looking like next year's going to be a solid growth year."

A measure of supplier deliveries, rising stock prices, an increase in consumer expectations, a jump in building permits and the "interest rate spread" boosted the index in August.

That spread is the difference between yields on 10-year Treasurys and the federal funds rate, which the Fed is keeping at a record low near zero. The funds rate is the interest banks charge each other for loans. A big difference between it and the 10-year Treasury is viewed as positive because investors are willing to lend for longer periods.

BofA to face SEC trial, exits loss-sharing deal

WASHINGTON (AP)—Bank of America Corp. now faces a trial with the Securities and Exchange Commission over billions in bonuses paid at Merrill Lynch, after a judge threw out the bank's $33 million settlement and rebuked the agency for not pursuing charges against executives.

The news comes as Bank of America executive Anne Finucane prepares to meet Tuesday with Rep. Edolphus Towns, D-N.Y., about BofA's takeover of the troubled investment bank. BofA missed a Monday deadline to turn over details of the hastily arranged acquisition to a congressional committee.

The SEC had accused BofA of failing to disclose to shareholders that it had authorized Merrill to pay up to $5.8 billion in bonuses to its employees in 2008 even though the investment bank lost $27.6 billion that year. BofA had agreed to pay $33 million to settle the charges without admitting or denying wrongdoing, saying it didn't violate disclosure rules but wanted to avoid litigation with the SEC at a time of market uncertainty.

But U.S. District Judge Jed Rakoff last week called the proposed settlement a breach of "justice and morality," and ordered a trial. He questioned why individual executives at Bank of America weren't charged, and said the settlement unfairly penalized shareholders.

"The SEC gets to claim that it is exposing wrongdoing on the part of the Bank of America in a high-profile merger, the bank's management gets to claim that they have been coerced into an onerous settlement by overzealous regulators. And all this is done at the expense, not only of the shareholders, but also of the truth," Rakoff wrote in his ruling.

Both the SEC and BofA have defended the earlier settlement proposal as appropriate. But after Rakoff's ruling, the agency weighed its options, either to go to trial or attempt to renegotiate the accord with Bank of America.

ADB raises Asia forecasts as region leads recovery

BEIJING (AP)—The Asian Development Bank raised its growth forecasts for China and India on Tuesday and said the region is leading a global recovery but warned against ending stimulus efforts too quickly.

The bank increased its 2009 growth forecast for China from its 7 percent outlook in March to 8.2 percent, and India from 5 percent to 6 percent. The regionwide forecast was raised from 3.4 percent to 3.9 percent.

"The Asian region has proven more resilient than earlier thought," said ADB chief economist Jong-Wha Lee as the Manila-based bank issued a report on economies stretching from Pakistan to South Korea to Fiji.

The economies of Indonesia and Vietnam were expected to grow faster than originally forecast, while South Korea's contraction was likely to be less severe than predicted. However, the outlooks for Taiwan, Hong Kong, Thailand and Malaysia were lowered.

While Asia's overall growth was helping lead the world economy out of its slump, the bank cautioned that a prolonged global downturn could slow a recovery for the trade-dependent region. The region was still dependent on the ups and downs of global demand despite government measures helping to boost local consumption in countries such as China.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Facebook to end Beacon tracking tool in settlement

NEW YORK (AP)—Facebook is shutting down its much-maligned Beacon marketing program, launched nearly two years ago amid fanfare only to generate a storm of privacy complaints over the tracking of user activities at partner Web sites. Facebook agreed to end Beacon and create a foundation to promote online privacy, safety and security as part of a $9.5 million settlement in a lawsuit over the program. A federal judge in San Jose, Calif., still must approve the terms. Meanwhile, Facebook is teaming up with the Nielsen Co. to help advertisers grab the attention of the hordes that are spending more of their time at the Internet hangout. Sheryl Sandberg, Facebook's chief operating officer, is expected to unveil the new marketing program, called "Nielsen BrandLift," at an advertising conference Tuesday in New York.

Dell eyes tech services with $3.9B deal for Perot

NEW YORK (AP)—Dell Inc. will spend $3.9 billion for the technology services company Perot Systems Corp. in an attempt to expand beyond the PC business and compete more aggressively with Hewlett-Packard Co.—which recently bought another tech-services company founded by H. Ross Perot. Dell said Monday it will offer $30 per share in cash for Perot Systems—a 68 percent premium over its closing price Friday. Perot Systems' shares rose $11.65, or 65 percent, to close at $29.56. Dell shares fell 68 cents, or 4.1 percent, to $16.01.

Pratt & Whitney to cut 1,000 Conn. jobs

EAST HARTFORD, Conn. (AP)—Jet engine maker Pratt & Whitney said Monday it will eliminate 1,000 jobs in Connecticut by 2011, transferring engine repair work to Georgia and Asia in a cost-cutting move. The subsidiary of United Technologies Corp. will shut its Cheshire, Conn., plant by early 2011 and shift some operations from its East Hartford facility beginning in the second quarter of next year. Work will be moved to Columbus, Ga., Singapore and Japan. "The only way that we can keep high-quality jobs in Connecticut is to remain competitive, react to dynamic market conditions and position the company for long-term success," the company said.

STOCK Portfolio

ASIAN MARKETS

AUSTRALIA	4,681.80 Down 2.30 (-0.05%)
HONG KONG	21,582.05 Up 109.20 (0.51%)
JAKARTA	2,456.99 Up 17.63 (0.72%)
TOKYO	10,370.54 Down 73.26 (-0.70%)
K. LUMPUR	1,176.90 Up 4.34 (0.37%)
MANILA	2,784.78 Down 4.55 (-0.16%)
SINGAPORE	2,667.07 Up 19.16 (0.72%)
SEOUL	1,716.41 Up 20.91 (1.23%)
BANGKOK	716.09 Up 2.93 (0.41%)

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	9,778.86 -41.31
NASDAQ	2,138.04 5.18
S&P	1,064.66 0.00

MONEY MARKET

Australian Dollar	1.1505
British Pound	0.6159
Canadian Dollar	1.0747
Chinese Renminbi	6.8282
Euro	0.6796
Hong Kong Dollar	7.7503
Indian Rupee	48.1490
Indonesian Rupiah	9,695.0000
Japanese Yen	91.7260
Malaysian Ringgit	3.4790
New Zealand Dollar	1.3950
Philippine Peso	47.6270
Singapore Dollar	1.4155
South Korean Won	1,203.1500
Swiss Franc	1.0298
Taiwan Dollar	32.3700
Thailand Baht	33.6700

In U.S. dollar terms

Source: Associated Press

Nation

Terror arrest sparks gov't warning on mass transit

DENVER (AP)—Counterterrorism officials are warning mass transit systems around the nation to step up patrols because of fears an Afghanistan-born immigrant under arrest in Colorado may have been plotting with others to detonate backpack bombs aboard New York City trains.

Investigators say Najibullah Zazi, a 24-year-old shuttle van driver at the Denver airport, played a direct role in a terror plot that unraveled during a trip to New York City around the anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks. He made his first court appearance Monday and remained behind bars.

Zazi and two other defendants have not been charged with any terrorism counts, only the relatively minor offense of lying to the government. But the case could grow to include more serious charges as the investigation proceeds.

Zazi has publicly denied being involved in a terror plot, and defense lawyer Arthur Folsom dismissed as "rumor" any notion that his client played a crucial role.

Publicly, law enforcement officials have repeatedly said they are unaware of a specific time or target for any attacks. Privately, officials speaking on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the case said investigators have worried most about the possible use of backpack bombs on New York City trains, similar to attacks carried out in London and Madrid. The investigation was ongoing to determine Zazi's role and how many others may have been involved.

AP

Twenty-four-year-old Najibullah Zazi and his father, Mohammed, 53, are moved in an SUV from the Denver County Jail to the Byron G. Rodgers Federal Courthouse in preparation for their initial appearances in federal court, Monday, Sept. 21, 2009.

Backpacks and cell phones were seized last week from apartments in Queens where Zazi visited.

In a bulletin issued Friday, the FBI and Homeland Security Department warned that improvised explosive devices are the most common tactic to blow up railroads and other mass transit systems overseas. And they noted incidents in which bombs were made with peroxide.

In the bulletin, obtained by The Associated Press, officials recommended that transit systems conduct random sweeps at terminals and stations and that law enforcement make random patrols and board some trains and buses.

The effects of the warning were not immediately clear Monday. New York's transit agency said it was in touch with an FBI-NYPD task force but wouldn't comment further.

The task force feared Zazi may have been involved in a potential plot involving hydrogen peroxide-based explosives, according to two law enforcement officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the investigation.

Baucus changes health bill over Democrat concerns

WASHINGTON (AP)—The chairman of the Senate Finance Committee was revising his sweeping health care bill Monday to address serious concerns from fellow Democrats and a key Republican about insurance costs, part of his ongoing struggle to deliver on President Barack Obama's top domestic priority.

Baucus

The changes came a day ahead of a committee session beginning Tuesday to amend and vote on the bill, which Sen. Max Baucus, D-Mont., hopes his panel will approve by the end of the week.

The 10-year, $856 billion package would extend coverage to about 29 million Americans who lack it now and institute insurance market reforms, such as prohibiting higher premiums for women or the denial of coverage to sick people. It would make almost everyone buy insurance or pay a fee, give subsidies to the poor to help them buy coverage and create new online exchanges where small businesses and people without government or employer-provided insurance could shop for plans and compare prices.

Release of the bill last week gave a boost to Obama's health care agenda after a summer of angry town hall meetings, though plenty of political and policy hurdles remain before Congress could send a bill to Obama's desk.

In the days ahead, Baucus faces the difficult task of keeping his 13 committee Democrats on board without moving so far to the left that he alienates Sen. Olympia Snowe, R-Maine, the only one of the panel's 10 Republicans seen as likely to vote for the bill.

Snowe's support could become even more critical presuming health overhaul legislation makes it to the Senate floor, as Democrats look for the 60 votes needed to advance the bill.

Toddler among 6 killed as storms pound Southeast

ATLANTA (AP)—A two-year-old Georgia boy swept from his father's arms Monday was among six people killed by storms pounding the Southeast, and more rain was expected after the historic dumping that also forced drivers to scramble onto the roofs of cars on Atlanta's main artery.

The boy, Slade Crawford, was found downstream of his family's ruined mobile home, which was split apart around 2 a.m. by a surging creek, said Ed Baskin, deputy coroner in Carroll County. The parents had been rescued as another son, age 1, clung to his mother's arms in the county southwest of Atlanta.

"By the time we got into our vehicle, they were screaming at the back of our house," said Pat Crawford, the boy's grandmother, who watched as the family's mobile home was whisked away. "We could see them, but the current was so bad, we couldn't get to them."

The storms were blamed for four other deaths in Georgia and one in Alabama. A Tennessee man also disappeared after he went swimming in an overflowing ditch on a dare, and officials in north Georgia's Chattooga County say a 15-year-old boy is also missing.

Forecasters issued flood alerts for parts of Tennessee, Alabama, North Carolina, Kentucky and Georgia, where the ground had been saturated by days of storms.

Authorities warned Georgia drivers to stay home as another round of storms approached from the west. One of Atlanta's busiest highways ground to a halt when water rose to cars' hoods during the afternoon commute, and some drivers climbed onto the vehicles' roofs to wait out the storm. Traffic picked back up after the water subsided on the highway that cuts through the heart of the city.

Sources: US eyes more drone hits on terror havens

WASHINGTON (AP)—The White House is considering expanding counterterror operations in Pakistan to refocus on eliminating al-Qaida instead of mounting a major military escalation in Afghanistan.

Two senior administration officials said Monday that the renewed fight against the terrorist organization could lead to more missile attacks on Pakistan terrorist havens by unmanned U.S. spy planes. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because no decisions have been made.

Top aides to President Barack Obama said he still has questions and wants more time to decide.

The officials said the administration would push ahead with the ground mission in Afghanistan for the near future, still leaving the door open for sending more U.S. troops. But Obama's top advisers, including Vice President Joe Biden, have indicated they are reluctant to send many more troops—if any at all—in the immediate future.

In weekend interviews, Obama emphasized that disrupting al-Qaida is his "core goal" and worried aloud about "mission creep" that moved away from that direction. "If it starts drifting away from that goal, then we may have a problem," he said.

The proposed shift would bolster U.S. action on Obama's long-stated goal of dismantling terrorist havens, but it could also complicate American relations with Pakistan, long wary of the growing use of aerial drones to target militants along the porous border with Afghanistan.

ACROSS THE NATION

Yale: Lab tech had building access until arrest

NEW HAVEN, Conn. (AP)—Even after police suspected lab technician Raymond Clark was the man who killed a Yale University graduate student and stuffed her body behind a wall, he had unfettered access to the Ivy League campus—but was under constant surveillance, officials confirmed Monday. Yale spokesman Tom Conroy said Monday that the school didn't disable an identification card that gave Clark access to campus buildings until after his arrest Thursday, four days after 24-year-old Annie Le was found strangled in the lab building where they both worked. Yale referred further questions to the New Haven police. Police said Monday that investigators knew where Clark was at all times after Le's body was found.

NY prosecutor:'Junior' Gotti left trail of victims

NEW YORK (AP)—The fourth racketeering trial of John "Junior" Gotti began Monday with the government portraying the mob heir as a maniacal killer and chronic criminal who has dodged prison by intimidating witnesses and obstructing justice. Gotti's lawyer, Charles Carnesi, tried to debunk that picture by telling a jury in U.S. District Court in Manhattan that federal prosecutors have assembled a cast of mob killers trying to win leniency for their crimes by testifying that Gotti ordered assaults and murders. Carnesi said Gotti never had anything to do with killings in the late 1980s and early 1990s of two drug dealers, despite claims of the witnesses, including one who could have faced the death penalty if convicted of charges he faced before he began cooperating.

Guns replace yoga at NH peace day protest

RAYMOND, N.H. (AP)—It may take more than a few deep breaths to bring peace back to Raymond, N.H. About 40 protesters, including some carrying guns, showed up at the town common Sunday after the town refused to allow Molly Schlangen to hold a "yoga for peace" gathering in honor of the International Day of Peace. Selectmen said Monday that they rejected Schlangen's request because they didn't have enough information about her plans. The board of selectmen says it will develop a written procedure for use of town land. Schlangen held the event at her studio instead. She says she considers it a blessing that the controversy generated more awareness of the day of peace.

Asia

UN climate summit puts China, India in spotlight

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—In the highest-level conference yet on climate change, 100 world leaders come to the United Nations on Tuesday to decide how to start an energy revolution.

While attention turns to U.S. President Barack Obama's first U.N. speech, the most substantial changes may come from what the presidents of China, India and other major economies spell out for billions of people and their households, businesses and farms in the decades ahead.

Those leaders are expected to make more ambitious commitments than the U.S. leader, whose hands are still tied by Congress.

"We are asking developing countries to do as we say, not as we did," said Ed Miliband, Britain's climate secretary, whose nation has pledged to cut carbon emissions by more than a third from 1990 levels by 2020, and said 40 percent of the UK's electricity by then would come from renewable sources.

Tuesday's U.N. summit and the G-20 summit in Pittsburgh at the end of this week are intended to add pressure on the United States and other rich nations to commit to cuts and provide the billions of dollars needed to help developing nations stop cutting down their forests or burning coal.

AP

United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon speaks during the opening ceremony of Climate Week NYC Monday, Sept. 21, 2009 in New York.

China and the U.S. each account for about 20 percent of all the world's greenhouse gas pollution created when coal, natural gas or oil are burned. The European Union is next, generating 14 percent, followed by Russia and India, which each account for 5 percent.

Chinese President Hu Jintao is expected to lay out new plans for extending China's energy-saving programs and targets for reducing the "intensity" of its carbon pollution—carbon dioxide emission increases as related to economic growth.

China has been cutting energy intensity for the past four years and could the new carbon intensity goal in a five-year plan for development until 2015. China already has said it is seeking to use 15 percent of its energy from renewable sources by 2020.

India, too, may draw away some of the spotlight for laying out plans for the fifth-biggest contributor of global warming gases to bump up fuel efficiency, burn coal more cleanly, preserve forests and grow more organic crops.

The United States, under former President George W. Bush's administration, long cited inaction by China and India as the reason for rejecting mandatory cuts in greenhouse gases.

Tuesday's meeting is intended to rally momentum for crafting a new global climate pact at Copenhagen, Denmark, in December. Bush rejected the 1997 Kyoto Protocol for cutting global emissions of warming gases, which expires at the end of 2012, based on its impact on the U.S. economy and exclusion of major developing nations like China and India, both major polluters.

But neither China nor India say they will agree to binding greenhouse-gas cuts like those envisioned in a new climate pact to start in 2013. They question why they should, when not even the U.S. will agree to join rich nations in scaling back their pollution.

"The crisis today on climate change is the inability of the United States to put on the table credible emissions reduction targets for 2020," said Jairam Ramesh, India's environment minister.

The EU is urging other rich countries to match its pledge to cut emissions by 20 percent from 1990 levels by 2020, and has said it would cut up to 30 percent if other rich countries follow suit.

Afghan fraud panel to use sampling in recounts

KABUL (AP)—The U.N.-backed panel investigating fraud in Afghanistan's presidential vote has agreed to allow a recount of just a sampling of hundreds of thousands of suspect ballots to speed a process some fear could stretch into spring, an official said Monday.

Preliminary results from the Aug. 20 poll show President Hamid Karzai winning with 54.6 percent, but if enough votes are thrown out because of fraud it could drop him below 50 percent, forcing a runoff with top challenger Abdullah Abdullah.

Time for a second vote is running short: Winter snows typically start in mid-November and make much of the country impassable. But waiting for spring to hold the poll could create a power vacuum in a country already destabilized by the resurgent Taliban and delay both government projects and military operations.

The earliest a second round can be held is the third week in October, when a U.N. report issued Monday said that ballots and indelible ink would be ready.

The U.N.-backed Electoral Complaints Commission, the final arbiter on disputed ballots, has said there was "clear and compelling evidence of fraud" countrywide and ordered a recount and audit of ballots at about 3,000 polling stations because of suspect tallies. It is unclear how many ballots that includes, but European Union monitors have said enough Karzai votes were questionable that he could drop below the benchmark.

Afghan officials have said a full audit and recount could take two or three months. The complaints panel is meeting with Afghan election officials and outside election experts to design a sample size that will be accurate enough to determine fraud but speed up the procedure, said Grant Kippen, the Canadian head of the panel.

Quake kills at least 11 in Bhutan, shakes India

GAUHATI, India (AP)—A 6.3-magnitude earthquake shook the remote mountain nation of Bhutan on Monday, killing at least 11 people, damaging an ancient monastery and forcing hundreds to flee, officials said. At least 15 people were also injured.

The afternoon earthquake was initially reported in Gauhati, the capital of India's northeastern Assam state, but it was centered in a little-populated eastern region of the tiny nation of Bhutan.

Much of Bhutan, a Himalayan nation sandwiched between India and China, is sparsely populated, reachable only by walking paths and without electricity or telephones.

"We're trying to piece together information to assess the damage," Ugyen Tenzing, the country's director of disaster management said from Thimphu, Bhutan's capital.

He said at least seven people were killed when their houses collapsed in the eastern districts of Munggar and Trashigang, and rescuers were searching for survivors under the debris of other buildings. Most buildings in that region are small farmhouses made by hand from mud and stone.

Four Indian highway workers were also killed in Bhutan's Samdrup Jhongkar district, near the border with India, when the road they were working on collapsed, Tenzing said, adding that at least 15 people had been injured across the earthquake zone.

In the Trashigang district, more than 200 Buddhist monks and 100 local officials were forced to flee an ancient monastery when it was left damaged by the quake. For centuries, much of Bhutan was governed from fortified monasteries, and today many of those buildings are also used as government offices.

The U.S. Geological Survey reported the quake's magnitude as 6.3 and said it was centered about 80 miles (125 kilometers) north of Gauhati and 115 miles (180 kilometers) east of Thimphu at a depth of 4.5 miles (7.2 kilometers).

81-year-old Thai king hospitalized for third day

BANGKOK (AP)—Thailand's 81-year-old king, the world's longest-serving monarch, remained hospitalized for a third day Monday with low fever and loss of appetite, the palace said Monday.

A statement from the Royal Household Bureau, read on evening news broadcasts, said King Bhumibol Adulyadej was on a glucose drip and was being treated with antibiotics.

The brief statement, which was similar to one issued a day earlier, did not indicate if the king's condition had changed since he was admitted to Bangkok's Siriraj Hospital on Saturday.

AP

In this March 4, 2005 file photo, Thailand's King Bhumibol Adulyadej addresses a royal ceremony to open new parliamentary session at Ananta Samakhom Throne Hall in Bangkok.

In October 2007, Bhumibol was hospitalized for three weeks with symptoms of a minor stroke. Last year, he was unable to make his traditional birthday speech due to what his daughter, Princess Sirindhorn, described as an inflammation of the esophagus.

The king's health is an extremely sensitive topic in Thailand because of concerns about his succession. His son, Crown Prince Vajiralongkorn, does not yet have the stature or moral authority of his father.

The king is revered by most Thais, but in recent years the palace has come in for unprecedented, though usually discreet, criticism because of allegations that the king's advisers interfered in politics, including playing a part in inspiring a 2006 military coup that ousted a democratically elected government.

ASIAN BRIEFS

16 stand trial in Vietnam baby selling case

HANOI, Vietnam (AP)—A court in northern Vietnam has put 16 people on trial for allegedly selling more than 250 babies for foreign adoption, a court official said Tuesday. The head of two social welfare centers in Nam Dinh province as well as several doctors and nurses at village clinics went on trial Tuesday, said Dang Viet Hung, the chief judge at the court hearing the case. The defendants are charged with "abuse of power and authority" and could face prison terms of five to 10 years. The defendants allegedly solicited infants from unwed mothers and those from desperately poor families and falsified documents claiming the babies had been abandoned at village clinics, making them eligible for adoption, Hung said. The ring sent 266 babies for foreign adoption from 2005 to July 2008, when the activity was discovered, Hung said. He did not know the countries of the adoptive parents.

Philippine troops seize Abu Sayyaf militants' camp

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Al-Qaida-linked militants ambushed a convoy of Marines returning to base Monday after raising the Philippine flag on a rebel camp they overran, killing eight troops and wounding nine others, officials said. Five militants were killed in the ensuing clash in southern Jolo island's Indanan township, said military spokesman Lt. Col. Romeo Brawner Jr. Earlier in the day, soldiers raised the Philippine flag on an Abu Sayyaf mountain camp in Indanan that they overran after clashes and airstrikes that left up to 19 militants dead, officials said. Maj. Gen. Benjamin Dolorfino said the bodies of two Abu Sayyaf militants have been recovered, but intelligence sources say at least 17 more were killed in Sunday's fighting. Five were wounded on the government side.

China bans foreign tourists from Tibet

BEIJING (AP)—China has banned foreign tourists from traveling to Tibet ahead of a parade in the capital to mark 60 years of Communist rule, an official said Tuesday, amid stepped-up security across the country to ensure nothing mars the celebrations. Tan Lin, an official with the business administration office at the Tourism Bureau of Tibet, said foreign tourists would be banned from Tuesday onwards, but those who have already arrived would be allowed to stay. China has tightened security in recent weeks ahead of the Oct. 1 holiday that will see a military parade through the heart of Beijing, a speech by President Hu Jintao and a huge fireworks display.

World

Zelaya's daring return reignites Honduras crisis

TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras (AP)—The daring return of deposed President Manuel Zelaya has thrust Honduras back onto the world stage and posed a sharp challenge to interim leaders determined to hold new elections without him after a June coup.

Thousands of Zelaya supporters defied a curfew and spent the night surrounding Brazil's embassy, where the leader remained holed up Tuesday, a day after slipping back into the country. In exile since June 28, Zelaya said he had traveled for 15 hours overland in a series of vehicles to pull off the stealth homecoming.

The government of interim President Roberto Micheletti ordered a 26-hour shutdown of the capital Tegucigalpa beginning Monday afternoon, closed the airport and set up roadblocks on highways leading into town. The measures were taken to keep out more Zelaya supporters from other regions in an attempt to head off the big protests that disrupted the city after his ouster.

But Zelaya loyalists ignored the decree and surrounded the embassy dancing and cheering and using their cell phones to light up the streets after electricity was cut off on the block housing the embassy.

"We're here to support him and protect him, and we're going to stay here as long as it's physically possible," said Carlos Salgado, a 43-year-old jewerly maker from Zelaya's home state of Olancho.

Supported by the U.S. and other governments since his ouster, Zelaya called for negotiations with the leaders who forced him from the country at gunpoint. But Micheletti urged Brazil to turn Zelaya over to Honduran authorities for trial.

Zelaya told The Associated Press that he was trying to establish contact with the interim government to start negotiations on a solution to the standoff that started when soldiers flew him to Costa Rica.

"As of now, we are beginning to seek dialogue," he said by telephone, though he gave few details.

Talks moderated by Costa Rican President Oscar Arias stalled over the interim government's refusal to accept Zelaya's reinstatement to the presidency under a power-sharing agreement that would limit his powers and prohibit him from attemting to revise the constitution.

In June, the country's Congress and courts, alarmed by Zelaya's political shift into a close alliance with leftist Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez and Cuba, backed the president's removal.

He was arrested on orders of the Supreme Court on charges of treason and abuse of power for ignoring court orders against holding a referendum on reforming the constitution. His opponents feared he wanted to end a constitutional ban on re-election - a charge Zelaya denied.

Arias called his proposed compromise the last option to end the Honduran crisis. "I think this is the best opportunity, the best time now that Zelaya's back in his country," he said in New York.

Zelaya returned on the eve of the U.N. General Assembly meeting in New York, where U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton urged the opposing factions in Honduras to look for a peaceful solution.

"It is imperative that dialogue begin, that there be a channel of communication between President Zelaya and the de facto regime in Honduras," Clinton said at a joint news conference with Arias.

AP

Honduras' ousted President Manuel Zelaya waves a Honduran flag from inside of Brazil's embassy in Tegucigalpa, Monday, Sept. 21, 2009.

Iran's Ahmadinejad proud of Holocaust denial

TEHRAN, Iran (AP)—Iran's president said Monday he is proud to stoke international outrage with his latest remarks denying the Holocaust as he heads for the United Nations this week—showing he is as defiant as ever while his country comes under greater pressure to curtail its nuclear program.

Mahmoud Ahmadinejad takes the world stage with a speech Wednesday to the U.N. General Assembly. He appears intent on showing he has not been weakened by three months of turmoil at home, where the pro-reform opposition has staged dramatic protests claiming Ahmadinejad's victory in June presidential elections was fraudulent.

Ahmadinejad has a reason to try to present his government as strong: On Oct. 1, Iran is to enter key negotiations with the United States and other powers seeking concessions on Iran's nuclear program.

The U.S. and its allies suspect Iran is secretly pursuing a nuclear weapon, warning that Tehran already has enough enriched uranium to build a bomb. Iran denies the accusations, saying it only aims to generate electricity.

Heading into the talks, Iran has firmly rejected demands it give up uranium enrichment, a process that can produce either fuel for a nuclear reactor or a warhead. And it doesn't want the talks to focus on the nuclear issue at all. But American and European officials warn that if no progress is made in the meetings, they will push for tougher U.N. sanctions against Iran.

After years of war, Iraqis hit by frenzy of crime

BAGHDAD (AP)—The kidnappers holding an Iraqi auto mechanic's 11-year-old son gave him just two days to come up with $100,000 in ransom. When he could not, they were just as quick to deliver their punishment: They chopped off the boy's head and hands and dumped his body in the garbage.

The boy's final words to his father came in an agonizing phone call. "Daddy, give them the money. They are beating me," Muhsin Mohammed Muhsin pleaded a day before he was killed.

As the worst of the country's sectarian bloodshed ebbs, Iraqis now face a new threat to getting on with their lives: a frenzy of violent crime.

Many of those involved are believed to be battle-experienced former insurgents unable to find legitimate work. They often bring the same brutality to their crimes that they showed in the fighting that nearly pushed the country into a Sunni-Shiite civil war in 2006 and 2007.

The result has been a wave of thefts and armed robberies, hitting homes, cars, jewelry stores, currency exchanges, pawn shops and banks.

Kidnapping, too, remains terrifyingly common, as it was during the peak of the insurgency. Now, however, the targets are increasingly children, and the kidnappers, rather than having sectarian motives, are seeking ransoms.

In southern Baghdad's Saydiyah neighborhood, photos of missing children are pasted on electricity poles and the concrete blast walls that enclose many areas of the bomb-battered capital.

UK's Brown says summit to discuss rebalancing

LONDON (AP)—British Prime Minister Gordon Brown said leaders of 20 rich and developing countries must start to sketch out the outlines of a new global economic order when they meet in Pittsburgh later this week, as well as making sure that the fledgling recovery sustains itself.

In a briefing Monday ahead of Thursday's Group of 20 meeting, Brown said it was important that longer-term issues, such as preventing huge financial imbalances in trade, savings and consumption, are tackled as the global economy recovers from its worst recession since World War II. Countries running surpluses, such as Germany, have suffered as badly as those with deficits during the recession as demand for their exports collapsed.

"We are looking at how we can put in place for the future the mechanism or path that can lead us to either making decisions about better ways of creating growth that is sustainable in the future, a better early warning system for the world economy about potential crises, a better way of resolving difficulties or imbalances around the world," Brown said.

Many of the world's leaders, including U.S. President Barack Obama and IMF head Dominique Strauss-Kahn, have spoken of the need for "rebalancing" the world economy. In essence, that means that the U.S. will have to consume less while it builds up its savings rate to bring its financial books into balance, while surplus countries, including dollar-rich China, start spending more to take up the slack left from lower U.S. spending.

WORLD BRIEFS

Report: Gunmen kill 80 in southern Sudan attacks

CAIRO (AP)—Gunmen attacked a village in southern Sudan and killed some 80 people and wounded 46, said a southern government official Monday, adding that he believed the militia was organized by the central government. Maj. Gen. Kuol Diem Kuol, spokesman of the southern Sudanese military forces, said Lou Nuer tribesman attacked the village of Duk-Padiet in Jonglei state on Sunday killing around 80 people, including 61 civilians. "The gunmen who are from the Lou-Nuer tribe they formed a militia," he told The Associated Press, adding that it was the same group that carried out attacks nearby that also killed dozens two weeks earlier. He believed they are being armed and organized by the north's ruling National Congress party.

Tombs opened in Venezuela to identify riot victims

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—Authorities began opening tombs Monday to identify the remains of dozens of people killed during riots more than two decades ago and look for evidence against police and soldiers responsible for slayings during the unrest. Most relatives of those who died in the 1989 riots, known as the "Caracazo," applaud the probe and hope investigators will be able to identify the victims and give their families a long-awaited opportunity for a proper burial. Venezuelans across the political spectrum condemned the bloodshed at the time. But for President Hugo Chavez and many of his supporters, the massacre remains a symbol of injustice of past governments. The decision to open the tombs is one of multiple efforts by prosecutors in recent years to investigate cases of wrongdoing under Chavez's predecessors.

German teen who attacked school awakes from coma

ANSBACH, Germany (AP)—A German teenager who wounded nine students and a teacher in a terrifying ax and arson attack on his school was motivated by a "hatred for humanity" and had been planning the rampage since April, officials said Monday. The new details came as the 18-year-old, who had been shot three times by police, was awakened Monday from a medically induced coma. Prosecutor Gudrun Lehnberger said the suspect was responsive but has not yet been questioned about Thursday's attack. However, the roughly 80 pages of evidence recovered from the teenager's laptop included extensive information on his plans, much of it addressed to a female whose name was not released, said Juergen Krach, another prosecutor. Krach said investigators believe the addressee may be fictional, and the material was apparently not sent to anyone.

Campus Life

SDA takes part in Int'l Coastal Cleanup Day

Students and staff of the Seventh-day Adventist School pose with the bags they collected during their cleanup of the San Antonio beach on Friday, Sept. 18, 2009.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Students of the Seventh-day Adventist School jumped the gun on Saturday's 24th International Cleanup Day with a cleanup of their own on Friday, Sept. 18, 2009.

Working in collaboration with Beautify CNMI, the school's students and staff cleaned up San Antonio beaches and streets and planted over 60 coconut saplings.

"It was a great opportunity for our students, to be able to clean up the shores of our neighborhood beaches, and to plant over 60 coconut saplings," said Angie Perez, public relations director of the Seventh-day Adventist School. "It is important to our school to be environmentally conscious, and to protect our community beaches."

The Seventh-Day Adventist School strives to form leaders that live to give back to their community, said Perez.

"Our student association officers demonstrated great leadership in planning as well as organizing this event, and we want to congratulate them for their successful International Coastal Cleanup Day," she added.

The Seventh-Day Adventist School has dedicated this year to the theme "Live to Give."

"We are committed to our community through many projects. One of our biggest community project this year is our Student Worthy Program, which will provide financial support—starting August 2010—to community kids so that they can join our family," said Perez.

This program is possible through Educational Tax Credit contributions. For more information on how to help, contact Perez at (670) 234-7330. ***(PR)***

Seventh-day Adventist School students also planted over 60 coconut saplings as part of their cleanup activity.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

PEACE DAY

Brilliant Star School teacher Elisabeth Swain, second from left standing, and nine upper elementary students show the peace pole and peace flags they made to mark Monday's 10th annual United Nations International Peace Day. The upper elementary students at Brilliant Star School on Navy Hill have been learning about International Peace Day and participated in a variety of activities with the school to mark the occasion. At 8:30am, the students unveiled their 5-foot tall peace pole, featuring the words "May Peace Prevail on Earth" in Carolinian, Chamorro, Mandarin and English, and dedicated it to the school with a reading of class poetry. Later in the morning, the school participated in "Sing Peace Around the World."

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

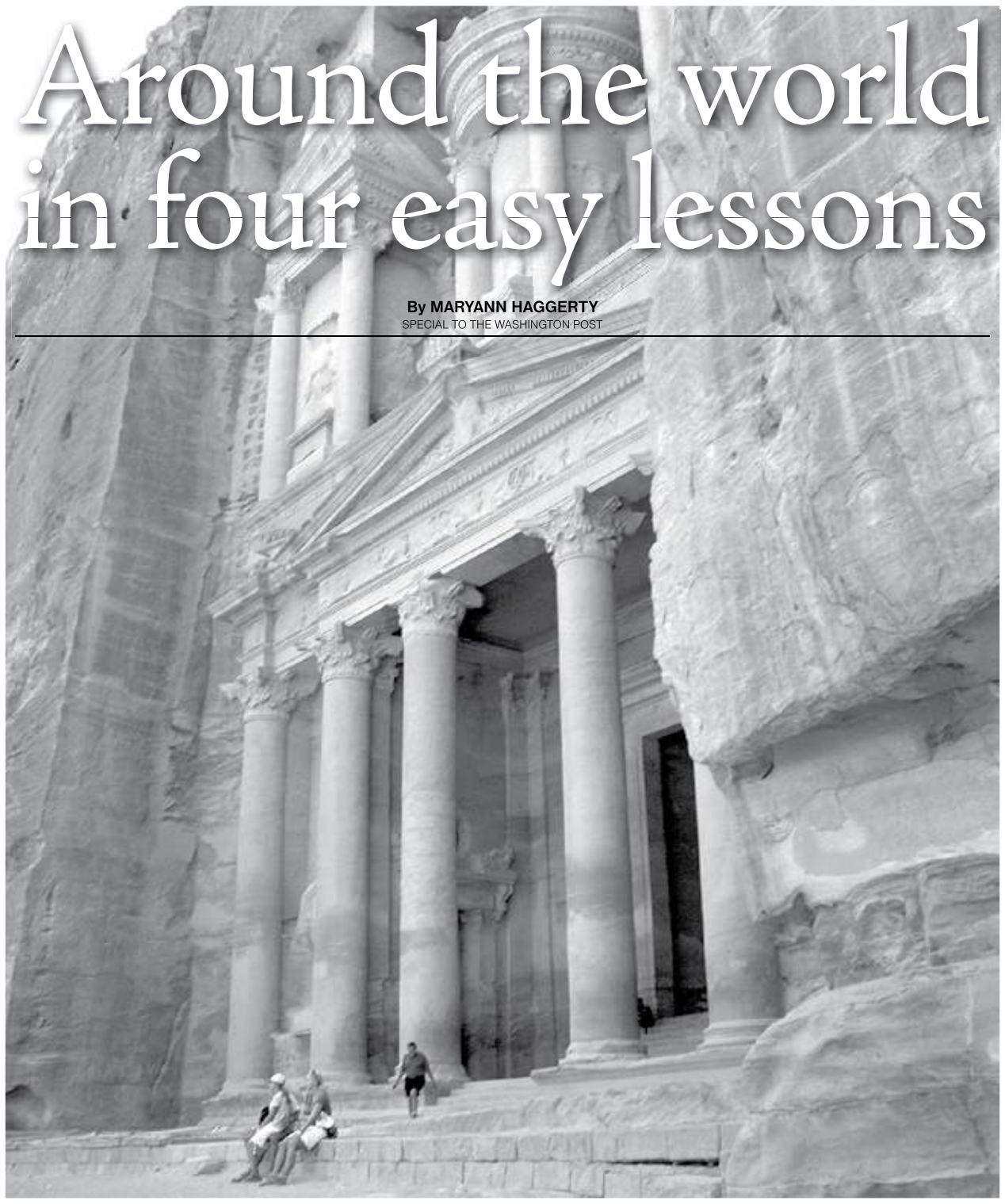
PINWHEELS FOR PEACE

A student at William S. Reyes Elementary School reads the messages of peace on paper pinwheels planted by over 700 students and teachers on the school grounds Monday as part of the international art and literacy project called "Pinwheels for Peace." As part of the creation process, the students wrote their thoughts about "war and peace, tolerance, living in harmony with others" on one side of the paper pinwheels and on the other side, they drew, painted, collaged, etc. to visualize and express their feelings. The students "planted" their pinwheels on the ground on Monday, the International Day of Peace, as a public statement and art exhibit.

Life & Style

Around the world in four easy lessons

By MARYANN HAGGERTY
SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON POST



THE WASHINGTON POST
A canceled flight threatened a planned visit to Petra, but a little quick thinking made a visit to Jordan's ancient city of red-rock ruins possible after all.

We did laundry in Honolulu, Hong Kong and Madrid.

Oh, and in a bathtub in Bali.

This summer, my husband and I, both well past backpacker age, traveled around the world in 29 days. That's an average of less than four days in each of the eight countries we visited. It was exhilarating, exhausting and, of course, the trip of a lifetime.

I could drone on about the splendor of the Taj Mahal at dawn, the sensory assault of Tokyo's Shinjuku district at night and the welcoming off-hours ambiance of that dim little heavy-metal bar in Barcelona. But don't worry. I know what you really want to know: How did we plan this? And what did we pack?

We learned a notebook's worth of lessons: Fly east to west, don't take a trip like this unless your marriage is strong and, perhaps most important, yes, it's possible to travel around the world even when, like most Americans', your vacation time is scarce.

Lesson No. 1: When planning, remember: It's your trip.

Not surprisingly, we cooked up the idea of traveling around the world over a pitcher of beer.

Late last year, we were trying to agree on a really spectacular vacation to commemorate, among other things, a milestone birthday. Southeast Asia? The European Grand Tour? As we sat in our corner bar, we kept adding possibilities, making things more and more complicated, until my husband brought up the big one: Why not around the world?

Yeah, sure. Who has the time for that? Or the money?

Nonetheless, I began reading books and trawling Web sites. There is an accepted template for what's called RTW travel. You must do it slowly—say, at least six months or a year. You must get off the beaten path, disdaining all those things that regular tourists are there to see, such as renowned museums or the Great Pyramids. You should probably carry a backpack, stay in the cheapest place in town and wash your clothes in the sink.

And you absolutely, positively must go to Thailand.

This didn't work for us. We had jobs we couldn't leave for long. And we didn't see the appeal in sharing cold-water showers in a $10-a-night hostel.

But ... we could take four weeks. And we actually did have quite a bit of cash saved. If you traveled for a month instead of six months, the hotels could at least have private baths with hot showers. We mapped out dream routes and must-do's until we convinced ourselves that with some tight scheduling we could pull it off. There wouldn't be time to immerse ourselves in any culture for too long or to get too far off the beaten path.

But guess what? We're city people. We wanted to see the skyscrapers of Hong Kong and the masterpieces of the Prado. Call us shallow, but we wanted to see the Taj Mahal.

To buy an RTW ticket, you can work through consolidators, those travel agencies that buy the tiny newspaper ads with the teeny print. Some have established Web operations aimed at independent travelers. You can book prearranged group tours, and even spectacularly expensive RTW cruises.

The international airline alliances—Oneworld, Star Alliance and SkyTeam—also sell RTW tickets, each with its own complex rules. I talked with the consolidators, but I also fiddled, sometimes for hours, with the cool Web scheduling tools that Oneworld and Star Alliance provide.

And sometime in March, we had it pinned down: an 11-flight, culture-clash-filled itinerary, stopping only in places new to both of us. There were beaches in Hawaii and Bali, ancient wonders in Egypt and Jordan, city stays in Tokyo and Hong Kong. We jammed in the Taj Mahal and left almost a week for Spain. We actually stretched it a hair beyond four weeks—that one extra day made the Delhi-to-Amman connection work, at least on paper. And somehow, we did it without a stay in Thailand.

Lesson No. 2: Packing is important, but don't worry—they'll sell you stuff.

You can buy anything in Hong Kong. Good, because my husband was threatening to burn the denim skirt that I had worn every day for more than a week in Asia.

I liked the skirt. It had plenty of pockets for lugging cameras, maps and more on our long walks. And as temperatures day after day stayed closer to 100 degrees than 90, it was more comfortable than jeans.

With temperatures forecast to keep climbing as we visited India, Jordan and Egypt, jeans were a bad idea. But at least in the Muslim countries, my short skirt wasn't recommended.

What I needed were adventure pants, those super-lightweight synthetic-fabric cargo pants, wrinkle-proof, sun-proof, with pockets inside zippered pockets. Just like the ones that had served me so well on past bird-watching trips in Latin America. In fact, just like the ones in my closet at home.

When we planned this trip, we agreed to do it all with carry-on luggage. Aside from those pesky checked-baggage fees, we didn't want to mess with lost luggage on a schedule that could have us leaving a country before our bags arrived. That meant we each carried a 22-inch wheeled bag, plus a day-bag-size backpack. Some travel gurus sniff at wheeled bags. But our backs are no longer up to lugging duffel bags, and those wheels come in handy if you're spending more time in the corridors of international airports than you are running for a bus along an unpaved African road.

We each kept the weight of our combined bags somewhat under 30 pounds, and that passed muster on each of the five airlines we flew. That meant no dress shoes (wear the sneakers, pack the sandals), one light sweater, a rain jacket, summer-weight clothes and underwear for eight days. The gol' darned TSA bag—three-ounce bottles of shampoo and all the other liquids in a one-quart zip-lock—went in the day bag, along with other toiletries, cameras, electronics, airplane reading matter, valuable paperwork and one full change of those clean clothes, just in case.

Forget taking just two sets of clothes and washing one out in the sink each night. A T-shirt might dry overnight in the Jordanian desert, but even the flimsiest of undies is still going to be damp when it rains for days on end in Tokyo. So we hunted down wash-ops along the way. Swanky resorts hide their laundry facilities from the guests and charge outrageously for each piece. But the kind of moderately priced small hotels that cater to middle-class families have guest laundries or nearby laundromats that meet tourist needs. For instance, while the clothes tumbled in the coin-operated dryer in Madrid, we ducked out for tapas and a beer. By trip's end, we had presentable clothes for the final flight, but every other stitch was filthy, so we'd done something right.

No matter how carefully you pack, though, you're going to bring something extra—perhaps one too many pairs of jeans—and you're going to forget something—perhaps a pair of adventure pants.

However, you can buy anything in Hong Kong. A store on Nathan Road had several racks of women's adventure pants, but one big catch: They were all sized for tiny Asian women. In the States, I'm a medium. Here, a medium was bare-

See AROUND on Next Page

NEXT STOP: THE WORLD

By MARYANN HAGGERY
SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON POST

Here's the itinerary for our trip. All dates and times are local.

MAY 22: Depart Washington 10 a.m., arrive Dallas almost an hour behind schedule to make a whisker-thin connection to Honolulu, where we arrive at 4:35 p.m. Get rental car, drive to North Shore of Oahu. Spend two nights on the North Shore and two in Honolulu.

MAY 26: Depart Honolulu 12:05 p.m., arrive Tokyo 3:30 p.m. the next day, even though the flight is only about eight hours. Because we crossed the international date line, we permanently lose a day here. Two nights in Tokyo.

MAY 29: Depart Tokyo 4:10 p.m., arrive Denpasar, Bali, 10:25 p.m. Drive inland to Ubud, where we spend four nights, before heading to the beach for two nights.

JUNE 4: Depart Bali 4 p.m., arrive Hong Kong 8:45 p.m. Three nights in Hong Kong.

JUNE 7: Depart Hong Kong 2:25 p.m., arrive New Delhi 7:45 p.m. (This touches down briefly in Bangkok.) One night in Delhi, one night in Agra, one more night scheduled in Delhi.

JUNE 10: Scheduled to depart Delhi 5:30 a.m.; flight canceled; remain in Delhi an extra night.

JUNE 11: Flight departs Delhi 5:30 a.m.; arrive Amman, Jordan, 8:45 a.m.; drive directly to Wadi Musa and the ruins of Petra. One night in Wadi Musa.

JUNE 12: Depart Amman 1:15 p.m., arrive Cairo 2:45 p.m. Two nights in Cairo.

JUNE 14: Depart Cairo 11:45 p.m. on a red-eye flight that arrives Madrid 3:45 a.m. **June 15:** Three nights in Madrid, then train to Barcelona, where we spend three nights.

JUNE 20: Depart Barcelona 10:55 a.m., arrive New York 1:45 p.m. Then wait and wait several unscheduled hours to arrive back in Washington three hours late — the only noticeably late flight except for the Delhi cancellation.

Documents: Anna Nicole Smith's doctors were warned

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A Los Angeles pharmacist told Anna Nicole Smith's internist that the drugs the internist prescribed to the model after her son died were "pharmaceutical suicide," according to unsealed documents written by state officials.

Smith's doctors were warned about prescription drugs by three pharmacists, according to unsealed affidavits obtained Monday by the Los Angeles Times.

The pharmacist refused to fill the prescriptions and later recalled thinking, "They are going to kill her with this."

The documents are part of an investigation of the role that Smith's doctors, psychiatrist Khristine Eroshevich and internist Sandeep Kapoor, had in her overdose death in February 2007.

The physicians and Smith's boyfriend and attorney Howard K. Stern pleaded not guilty May 13 to conspiring to illegally provide her with controlled substances. A preliminary hearing is scheduled for next month.

In court papers filed last week, prosecutors said they plan to call the model's bodyguard and Larry Birkhead, the father of her daughter, Dannielynn, as witnesses.

The documents also cite evidence that both physicians crossed professional boundaries by having sexual contact with their famous patient. Calls to attorneys representing Eroshevich and Kapoor were not immediately returned Monday.

The first request for drugs for the former Playboy Playmate came five days after her son died and asked for two sedatives, 300 tablets of methadone, a muscle relaxer, an anti-inflammatory drug and four bottles of a strong painkiller.

AROUND

From Page 18

ly making it up over my knees.

But remember, you can buy anything in Hong Kong. The saleswoman disappeared into the storeroom a few times before she finally brought out the pants that I wore every day until we reached Europe—the perfect color, the perfect pockets.

And the perfect size: an XXL.

Lesson No. 3: Technology is great, but you need paper.

At 3:30 a.m., the heavily armed guard at the New Delhi airport departures terminal was in no mood to learn about e-tickets.

I can't imagine that the idea was new to him, living as he does in a nation synonymous with high-tech. But he acted as though it was. The helpful hotel concierge who had accompanied us to the airport showed him our passports and explained over and over that we didn't have paper plane tickets, just electronic ones. That wasn't enough. The guard wanted a ticket.

It was time for the red folder.

Before we left the States, I printed out every hotel confirmation e-mail, every driver's phone number, every set of directions to shuttle buses and train stations. I scanned our passports, sent the images to Gmail and printed out extra copies. I printed at least a half-dozen copies of our airline itinerary as it appeared on the American Airlines Web site. And I put all those many sheets of paper, arranged in chronological order, in a red paper folder, the kind you buy a grade-school kid for 69 cents. It lived in the outside pocket of my little backpack.

With a flourish, I pulled out a copy of the itinerary, with our names, the date, everything. This document was no more official than any other printout in my folder, but the guard examined it closely and decided that we had a right to be where we were supposed to be.

We could not have planned this trip without the Internet. But technology isn't infallible, so you need backups. We approached that in a number of ways, some more successful than others.

For instance, books are heavy. To lighten our burden of thinly sliced trees, we loaded dozens of books, mostly freebie classics, onto a Kindle (for my husband) and an iPod Touch (for me). But you're not allowed to use either of these 21st-century marvels during takeoff and landing. They're not so hot poolside, either. So we agreed that we could each take one old-fashioned paperback that we would throw out when we finished. I think we each cheated and took two. But at least we got rid of some of the paper.

THE WASHINGTON POST

An 11-flight round-the-world itinerary included a stop at the beach in Seminyak in Bali.

We had less luck with guidebooks. To cut that weight, we downloaded PDFs of relevant Lonely Planet chapters and stored them on the iPod. We packed just a few teeny-tiny paperback city guides, the kind that really do fit into a back pocket, and bought more along the way.

It turns out that reading long PDFs on an iPod screen is almost as difficult as deciphering detailed city maps on that same screen. And the Cairo guidebook we were able to find in Egypt wasn't much help with the Arabic signs in the subway system, and even less help when we got lost walking around the Zamalek neighborhood on a morning so hot and smoggy you couldn't see the banks of the Nile. At that point, I longed for a paper Lonely Planet.

Lesson No. 4: Even when things don't go according to plan, it can be cool.

Once we finally got past that guard at the airport in Delhi, I was ready to leave India. The Taj Mahal was breathtaking, but temperatures for two days had been flirting with an outrageously hot 45 degrees Celsius (I didn't want to do the math—it comes to 113 degrees Fahrenheit) and Indian traffic had left my nerves raw. Also, it was not quite 4 a.m.

Unfortunately, the plane we were supposed to take to Jordan was canceled. I'll skip the dramatics and get to the point: This is why we bought travel insurance. It meant that we didn't have to pay for our extra day in Delhi. If the delay had run into another day, it would have covered that, too. After a nap back at our hotel, I hit the international phone lines to cancel what I had been assured was our charming little hotel in Amman—the one recommended by a friend who used to live there. We arranged instead to have a driver pick us up at the Amman airport the next day and go directly to Petra, the ancient city of jaw-dropping red-rock ruins that was our main reason for the Jordan stop. I regret losing that day in Jordan, but at least we didn't lose any unbudgeted money.

Many long-term travelers keep their plans loose, in good part to keep costs down. They don't book rooms until they arrive at their destination; they haggle with drivers on the spot; they keep their flight plans as flexible as the airlines allow. When I have plenty of time, I'll do the same.

But four weeks was all we had, so we made all our reservations ahead, via the Internet, except for a few hotel nights in Bali and Barcelona. We studied up on airport-to-city public transit, or we arranged for drivers to meet our flights. I'm sure finding local rooms and local buses might have been cheaper, but it wasn't worth it to me.

To keep ourselves oriented, we filled our notebooks in advance with salient facts about each destination: language, time zones and more. My husband printed one little spreadsheet that was an anchor as we hopped among countries with vastly different customs (how much to tip?), currencies (About 100 to the dollar, like in Japan? Or about 10,000, like in Indonesia?) and latitudes (sunset was 7:56 p.m. in Cairo; the next night in Madrid, it was 9:46 p.m.)

And because of the travel insurance, the 24-hour flight delay wasn't a crisis. We spent the time in our air-conditioned hotel, eating Indian food, sitting by the pool, checking e-mail and decompressing, something that definitely hadn't been on the carefully arranged schedule for that day.

Maryann Haggerty is a former Washington Post *writer and editor. Her blog from this trip is at tinyurl.com/rtw29.*

"Time has come and gone; memories live on.
May your spirit live forever in our hearts."
First Death Anniversary
In Loving Memory of
Martin Maratita Taisacan
We cordially invite relatives and friends to join us as we commemorate the
First Death Anniversary of the passing of our dearly beloved.
Daily mass of intension will be celebrated at 6:00 p.m. beginning Wednesday, September 23rd,
at San Antonio Church through Wednesday, September 30th. On Sunday, September 27th,
mass will be offered at 7:00 a.m., and the rosary will follow immediately after.
On the final day, Thursday, October 1st, rosary will be said at 5:30 p.m. at San Antonio Church followed
by the Eucharistic celebration at 6:00 p.m. Dinner will be served at the San Antonio Social Hall.
Your presence, thoughts and prayers are greatly appreciated.
Thank you and Un Dangkulo Na Si Yu'us Ma'ase.
Ginen As Matilde Sablan Taisacan, Children & Families

The president and the potato

NEW YORK (AP)—Add this one to the presidential collection: the heart-shaped potato.

By the time Barack Obama came on stage to the taping of the "Late Show" on Monday, host David Letterman had offered up 10 reasons why in the world the president had agreed to do it.

Among Letterman's theories: Obama said yes without thinking about it, or as Letterman put it, "Like Bush did with Iraq."

But Obama had other ideas. It turns out he was listening when Letterman had bantered with a woman in the audience who brought—yes—a potato in the shape of a heart to the show.

Obama told Letterman: "The main reason I'm here? I want to see that heart-shaped potato."

The woman tossed the potato to Letterman.

She agreed to let Obama keep it. Said the president: "This is remarkable."

Obama also had his most irreverent answer yet on the question of whether some of the vitriolic reaction to his health care plan is driven at least partly by racism.

"First of all, I think it's important to realize that I was actually black before the election," Obama said to huge laughs from Letterman and the audience.

AP

President Barack Obama is pictured with host David Letterman during a break at a taping of CBS The Late Show with David Letterman, Monday, Sept. 21, 2009, at the Ed Sullivan Theater in New York.

Responded Letterman: "How long have you been a black man?"

Letterman covered a number of topics with Obama—many of them serious—in a taping that ran about 40 minutes. The show will be broadcast on CBS on Monday evening.

On the economy, Obama offered a sober prediction as the country deals with 9.7 percent unemployment, the worst level since 1983. He said he expects unemployment will be a "big problem" for at least another year. But he also said the economy will rebound even stronger.

As for the war in Afghanistan, Obama said he knows some people want him to bring troops home, and others are calling for him to increase U.S. force levels to combat the insurgency. The top U.S. commander there is warning the war could be lost without more troops.

Obama said he won't make a decision on sending in more troops, though, until he completes a comprehensive review of the war effort and settles on his next strategy.

"I'm going to be asking some very hard questions," Obama said.

Obama's visit made him the first sitting president to appear on Letterman's program. He had been on Letterman's show five times before, though, most recently in September 2008.

The White House said it was a good way for him to reach yet another audience as Obama wraps up a blitz of TV appearances, trying mainly to build support for his health care plan.

As president, Obama also went on NBC's "Tonight" show when it was hosted by Jay Leno.

After the taping, the president returned to his midtown Manhattan hotel and quietly emerged a while later in gym clothes and a baseball cap. His destination: the church across the street for some basketball with his aides.

Tomorrow starts Obama's main mission in New York: His participation in the United Nations General Assembly.

Michael Jackson's Ferris wheel spins into new life

MOUNTAIN HOME, Ark. (AP)—From the top of the Ferris wheel, one could once see acres of Michael Jackson's Neverland Ranch, the ride's 5,000 lights aglow in a carnival-like frenzy fit for a performer who never quite grew up.

At the bottom of the wheel rest allegations of child sex abuse, bankruptcy and ultimately a drug-induced death for the 50-year-old King of Pop.

A liquidation sale scattered many of Jackson's rides from his ranch in the oak-studded hills 120 miles northwest of Los Angeles. Now the Ferris wheel that offered glimpses of Jackson's incredible wealth is quietly touring the Midwest in the hands of a Missouri amusement company that bought it only because it needed another one for its stable of rides.

"We ourselves really didn't advertise it," said Theresa Noerper, co-owner of Archway Amusements Corp. "When he died, it kind of blew up. There's no keeping secrets then."

The ride offers no reference of Jackson to casual passers-by; a metal stamp shows it was made by the Eli Bridge Co. of Jacksonville, Ill. However, metal molding around the seats remains a very specific color, supposedly specified by Jackson when he ordered it from the manufacturer—pinot noir red.

Archway Amusements doesn't go out of its way to publicize the Ferris wheel's ties to Jackson; it leaves it up to local fair organizers to decide whether to make them known. But word of mouth has gotten to some hardcore Jackson fans.

Jackson reportedly purchased the Ferris wheel for $215,000 in 1990 and took the first ride on it when workers installed it at Neverland. It stayed there as Jackson was accused of molesting a 13-year-old cancer survivor at the ranch in 2003. He was acquitted two years later, but the scandal drove him from Neverland forever. Over the next four years, the property fell into disrepair, and at one point it was weeks from being sold at a public auction.

AP

Vince Campbell, 38, of Mountain Home, Ark., and his sister, Ronda Bowden, 43, look at a Ferris wheel that once belonged to Michael Jackson, Tuesday, Sept. 15, 2009, at the Baxter County, Ark., fairgrounds.

Noerper said Archway Amusements bought the 65-foot-tall Ferris wheel last year. The company repainted its supporting arms green and began taking it on the company's seasonal fair and carnival circuit. Then Jackson died June 25, raising concerns among local police that the ride might be mobbed by mourners.

That didn't happen.

"They come to take pictures, a couple tears and everybody likes to ride it," Noerper said.

The Ferris wheel made an appearance last week at the annual Baxter County Fair. It will move on to the Northeast Arkansas District Fair in Jonesboro this week, competing against stomach-churning rides like Pharaoh's Revenge, the Sizzler and the Hot Shot.

Alaina Dyce, 13, of Mountain Home, said she looked forward to the spinning "squirrel cages" rather than the staid Ferris wheel. Michael Jackson's name didn't add much for the Led Zeppelin T-shirted teen.

Still, something draws riders to the wheel, making them willing to hand over three tickets worth $4.50.

"They're not big moneymakers anymore, because they're so slow and you have to load them," Noerper said of Ferris wheels. "It's more of a nostalgia piece than anything."

Authorities taking their time in Jackson case

LOS ANGELES (AP)—It's been almost three months since Michael Jackson's shocking death, and while Los Angeles police are close to wrapping up their investigation, the decision on whether to bring criminal charges is at least weeks and perhaps months away, legal experts say.

Last month the Los Angeles County coroner ruled Jackson's June 25 death a homicide caused primarily by the powerful anesthetic propofol in combination with the sedative lorazepam. Both were administered in Jackson's mansion by his personal physician, Dr. Conrad Murray.

Murray is the target of what police term a manslaughter investigation but the probe is far broader, encompassing a half-dozen doctors who treated Jackson over the years. Police and federal Drug Enforcement Administration agents are trying to reconstruct Jackson's extensive drug history, a task made more difficult because the pop star used pseudonyms to obtain medications.

Tracking down where Jackson got drugs, who provided them, how much his prior drug use contributed to his death and lining up experts to distill complex medical information into layman's terms for a jury is time-consuming.

"There's no reason for anyone to jump the gun on this," said Greg D. Lee, a retired supervising DEA agent. "Time is on their side. There's no imminent danger to the public from Dr. Murray."

The decision on criminal charges will come from the Los Angeles County district attorney's office. Spokeswoman Sandi Gibbons said a request for charges comes after a police investigation is completed and prosecutors examine the evidence themselves. "We haven't been presented with anything," she said.

Except for a brief video posted to YouTube, Murray has not spoken publicly since Jackson's death. In the video, he said: "I told the truth and I have faith the truth will prevail."

Jury selected for John Travolta extortion trial

NASSAU, Bahamas (AP)—A jury was selected Monday for a trial that could see John Travolta take the stand against two people accused of trying to extort $25 million from the movie star following his son's death in the Bahamas.

Travolta is on a list of 14 witnesses against the defendants—a former Bahamas senator and an ambulance driver—who allegedly threatened to release a document related to the treatment of his chronically ill son Jett.

His testimony would mark a break from the low profile that Travolta and his wife, actress Kelly Preston, have kept since their 16-year-old son died from a seizure at a family vacation home on Grand Bahama island on Jan. 2.

Travolta

Travolta, 55, skipped the publicity tour this summer for his latest film, "The Taking of Pelham 1 2 3." He posted a note on his personal Web site in June thanking his co-stars for their efforts to promote the picture, which gave the family additional time to grieve. The nine-person jury is expected to begin hearing evidence Tuesday, but prosecutors declined to say when Travolta might take the stand or whether he is in the country.

Travolta's attorneys referred calls to his publicist, Paul Bloch, who said he would not comment on the actor's plans because "this is an ongoing criminal matter."

Former Sen. Pleasant Bridgewater and paramedic Tarino Lightbourne, who was among those who tried to revive Jett after he collapsed, have pleaded innocent to charges including conspiracy to commit extortion.

Slight ratings increase for the Emmy Awards

NEW YORK (AP)—Neil Patrick Harris did for the Emmy Awards what he did for the Tonys earlier this year: increase the award show's audience over the previous year.

The Emmys on Sunday rebounded from last year's all-time low viewership total, adding a million more people to a total of 13.3 million, according to The Nielsen Co. Harris, from the CBS sitcom "How I Met Your Mother," drew raves for his work, with The Associated Press' Frazier Moore declaring the Emmy telecast "maybe the best ever."

Harris was also host of the Tony Awards, which saw its audience increase by 19 percent.

It was the most-watched Emmys telecast since 2006, when 16.1 million people tuned in. The Emmys increased its audience despite formidable competition from the NFL, where a Giants-Cowboys game had the best overnight ratings of any prime-time pro football game in 11 years, Nielsen said.

Most of the major award winners, such as "Mad Men" as best drama and "30 Rock" as best comedy, were repeats from 2008.

Analysts say the Emmys could have been helped by football in drawing a bigger audience than the year before: CBS prime-time shows in the fall frequently get a boost from viewers keeping the TV on after one of the network's football games runs late. CBS is also the nation's most popular network, and promotion for the Emmys likely got more exposure than it did the last two years on ABC and Fox.

AP

Neil Patrick Harris entertains during the 61st Primetime Emmy Awards on Sunday, Sept. 20, 2009, in Los Angeles.

Angie Harmon kicks off celebrity shoe auction

NEW YORK (AP)—Angie Harmon is hosting a celebrity shoe auction in New York City and sending her baby daughter through an obstacle course to raise money for charity.

Nine-month-old Emery Hope is among the babies crawling through a terrain of mock mountains and ski slopes on Tuesday while their moms bid on shoes signed by celebrities including Melissa Joan Hart, Sarah Michelle Gellar and Tori Spelling.

The shoes are from the Big Movers collection, designed for parents on the go.

The event benefits the Washington, D.C., nonprofit KaBOOM! which builds playgrounds. It takes place in a Manhattan park.

Harmon's television credits include "Law & Order" and "Women's Murder Club." She kicks off the shoe auction with her husband, former New York Giants and St. Louis Rams football player Jason Sehorn (SEE'-horn).

AP

This Feb. 15, 1964 file photo shows Ralph Ellison, novelist and author of the widely acclaimed "The Invisible Man."

Spanish-language actor faces child porn charges

MIAMI (AP)—A Spanish-language actor and frequent guest on the popular Univision show "Sabado Gigante" has been charged with possessing child pornography, police said Monday.

Adonis Losada, 45, was arrested Friday at his Miami Beach apartment, a police report said.

Investigators found a child pornography image Losada sent to a social networking Web site, Boynton Beach and Miami Beach police said. Police say investigators then obtained a warrant to search Losada's home and found 18 child porn images on his home computer.

According to court records, he was released on $90,000 bail Monday but a call to a home phone number listed for Losada was not answered. It was not immediately clear if he had an attorney. His arraignment was set for Oct. 9.

Losada, a native of Cuba, impersonates the flighty but sweet grandmother Dona Concha on "Sabado Gigante." Univision said in a statement Monday that Losada had been suspended until authorities finished their investigation.

In this file photo taken April 20, 2006, Joe Satriani performs during the annual Jammy Awards in New York.

AP

Public gets to vote for book award

NEW YORK (AP)—The National Book Awards would like your vote.

Organizers of the prestigious literary prize are asking the public to choose the best fiction winner in the awards' 60-year history.

The six finalists, announced Monday by the National Book Foundation, are: "The Stories of John Cheever," Ralph Ellison's "Invisible Man," William Faulkner's "Collected Stories," "The Complete Stories" of Flannery O'Connor, Thomas Pynchon's "Gravity Rainbow" and "The Collected Stories of Eudora Welty."

Lawsuit against Coldplay over 'Viva La Vida' ends

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Court records show guitarist Joe Satriani and Coldplay have reached an agreement that ends a copyright infringement lawsuit filed over the band's smash hit "Viva la Vida."

Satriani sued Coldplay in December, claiming the band copied "substantial, original portions" of his 2004 song, "If I Could Fly."

Coldplay won a Grammy Award earlier this year for "Viva La Vida."

A federal judge in Los Angeles last week dismissed the case at the request of attorneys for both sides. No details about an agreement were included in court filings, other than each side would pay its own legal costs. Satriani is a renowned guitarist who has been nominated for numerous Grammys during his career.

Woman's shocking discovery puts man in unmarked grave

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: For 15 years I was a happily married homemaker with a wonderful husband. "Duncan" and I attended church together, frolicked through the fields, even exterminated rodents together. He was my best friend. It was bliss.

Last year I found out my father had had an affair with Duncan's mother the year I was born, which makes him my half-brother! The news was too much for my husband. He had a fatal heart attack not long after.

What should I put on his gravestone—"Loving Brother" or "Loving Husband"?

GRIEVING IN MASSACHUSETTS

DEAR GRIEVING: Neither. How about "He was 'Everything' to me"? That should about cover it.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I'm in a relationship with a man I met online who lives out of state. He has been to see me a dozen times over the last three years. We say we love each other and want to spend the rest of our lives together. But over the last 18 months I have realized we have NOTHING in common—and our views on life, policy and politics are completely opposite.

For three years we have talked every single day, mostly about how much we love each other. It's when we try to have a real conversation we start to disagree. He says we're entitled to our own opinions, and I agree, but I can't help but wonder what kind of future we could have together when we cannot discuss anything but how we feel about each other.

SECOND THOUGHTS IN ANAHEIM

DEAR SECOND THOUGHTS: It's a shame you two can't spend some extended time together because the answer to your question would become evident. From where I sit, I think there would be conflict on a daily basis regardless of how much you "love" each other. I put the word love in quotes because love is something that grows from mutual respect, and I'm not sure how long you would remain mutually respectful in light of the fact your worldviews are completely different.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My father died two years ago and asked that I administer my mother's finances. She has now burned through two-thirds of the savings he left her, and she refuses to accept any advice I have tried to give her about her spending.

I have told my mother repeatedly that I do not have the resources to take care of her when she runs out of money. I know she assumes that I will because she is my mother.

How do I deal with a parent who is narcissistic and out of touch with reality? I have told her I'll gladly hand over her finances to my brother, but she doesn't want him to get involved. I have asked him for advice, but he won't respond.

Do I just let her go through everything and struggle in the end, or stick to my guns? After all, it's her money and I can't refuse to make it available to her. Please advise.

MOTHER'S KEEPER IN SAN DIEGO

DEAR MOTHER'S KEEPER: I suspect your brother is acting the way he is because he's miffed at not being asked to handle the finances to begin with, or he simply wants to stay out of it. But you cannot allow your mother to continue spending her inheritance at the rate she is. Consult the attorney who drafted your father's will and ask if there's a way to not only put the brakes on her, but also take some of the responsibility off your shoulders.

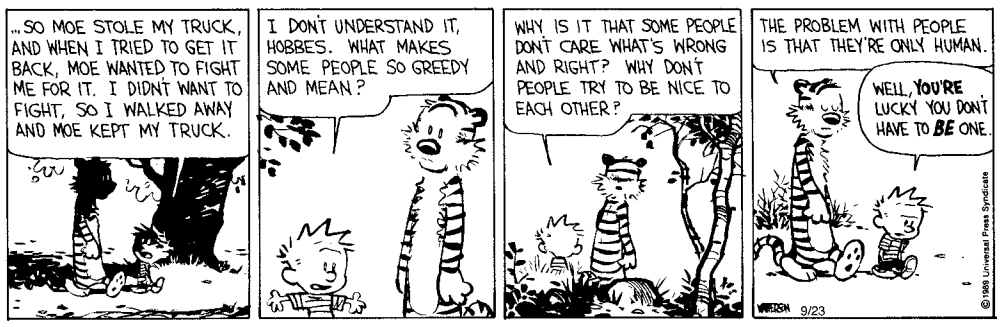
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $12 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


...SO MOE STOLE MY TRUCK, AND WHEN I TRIED TO GET IT BACK, MOE WANTED TO FIGHT ME FOR IT. I DIDN'T WANT TO FIGHT, SO I WALKED AWAY AND MOE KEPT MY TRUCK.
I DON'T UNDERSTAND IT, HOBBES. WHAT MAKES SOME PEOPLE SO GREEDY AND MEAN?
WHY IS IT THAT SOME PEOPLE DON'T CARE WHAT'S WRONG AND RIGHT? WHY DON'T PEOPLE TRY TO BE NICE TO EACH OTHER?
THE PROBLEM WITH PEOPLE IS THAT THEY'RE ONLY HUMAN.
WELL, YOU'RE LUCKY YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE ONE.
WATTERSON 9/23
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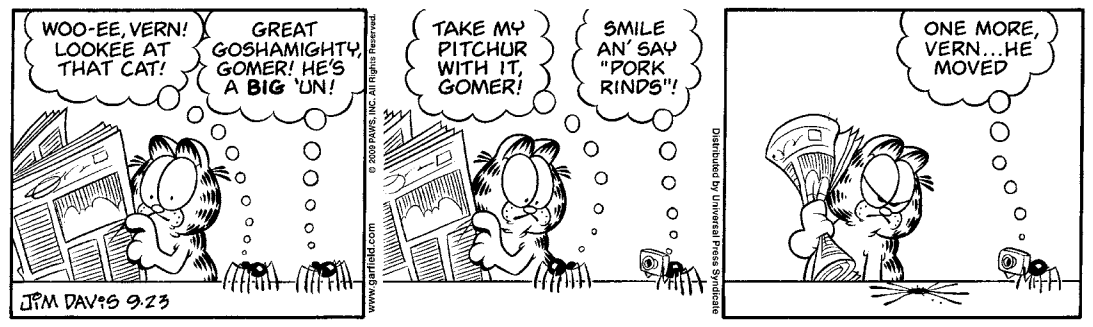
Garfield®

By Jim Davis


WOO-EE, VERN! LOOKEE AT THAT CAT!
GREAT GOSHAMIGHTY, GOMER! HE'S A BIG 'UN!
JIM DAVIS 9-23
TAKE MY PITCHUR WITH IT, GOMER!
SMILE AN' SAY "PORK RINDS"!
ONE MORE, VERN...HE MOVED
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www.garfield.com
Distributed by Universal Press Syndicate

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

ARE YOU SURE YOU WANT TO TAKE ME TO THE JONAS BROTHERS CONCERT?
AFFIRMATIVE, DUDE! IT'S GONNA BE A STONE-COLD ROCK AND/OR ROLL JAM SESSION!
ARE THE CONCERTS REALLY LOUD?
INDEED, SISTER SLEDGE! SOMETIMES THEY CAN BE SO LOUD TO THE EXTREME THAT YOU CAN'T HEAR WHAT THE PEEPS NEXT TO YOU BE SAYIN', DUDE!
THIS MAY WORK OUT YET.
MARRELL
9-23
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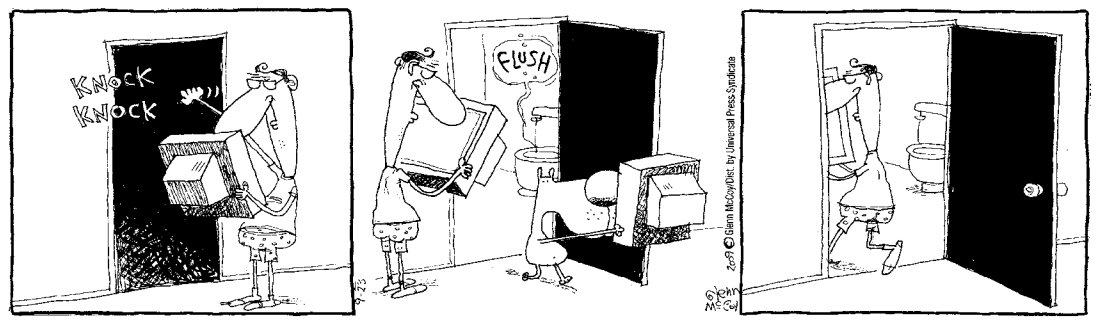
The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

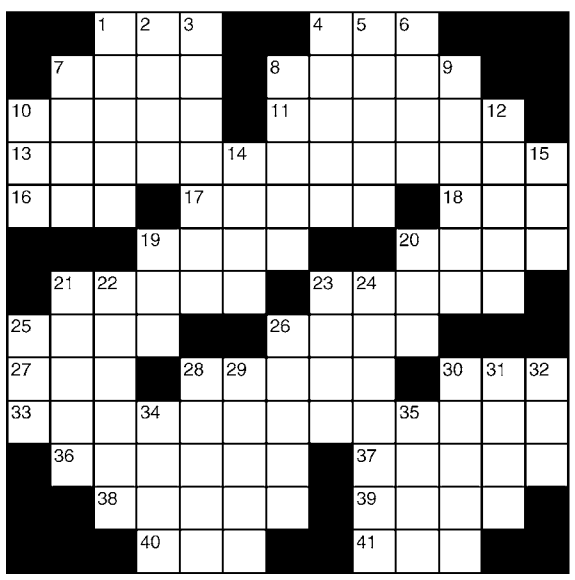
ACROSS
1 Remuneration
4 — Aviv
7 Java neighbor
8 Subject
10 Bert's roomie
11 Left
13 "Good Golly Miss Molly" singer
16 Crucial
17 Denounces
18 Seek damages
19 Not so much
20 Rope material
21 Tolerate
23 Parliamentarians
25 Eager, plus
26 Cage components
27 Witty one
28 Feel one's way
30 Sprite
33 Horn blower of rhyme
36 Thelma's pal
37 O. Henry's specialty
38 Over and done with
39 California wine valley
40 Acquire
41 "Holy cow!"

DOWN
1 Dorm-raid prize
2 Settled down
3 Gave way
4 Poison
5 Grand tales
6 Stone (Suff.)
7 Spreadable cheese
8 Contract clauses
9 Stopped
10 Wapiti
12 Starr's gear
14 Facility
15 Passbook abbr.
19 Cover
20 Storefront sign abbr.
21 Use
22 Hallux
23 Slimming surgery, for short
24 Following orders
25 Piercing tool
26 Judicially clad
28 Move gracefully
29 Put back to zero
30 Run off to wed
31 Moth variety
32 Palin portrayer Tina
34 Mao Tse- —
35 Highland hillside

Solution time: 21 mins.

A	M	I	D	■	C	B	S	■	C	A	P	O
B	A	R	E	■	A	R	E	■	A	R	I	D
E	X	A	M	■	D	A	T	E	L	I	N	E
L	I	N	E	D	R	Y	■	A	M	A	S	S
■	■	■	A	Y	E	■	U	S	E	■	■	■
P	L	A	N	E	■	D	R	Y	R	U	N	S
E	O	N	■	■	S	O	L	■	■	F	O	E
R	U	N	S	O	U	T	■	A	R	O	S	E
■	■	■	O	W	N	■	G	N	U	■	■	■
A	P	A	C	E	■	O	U	T	B	A	C	K
B	A	C	K	D	A	T	E	■	B	L	U	E
L	I	T	E	■	H	I	S	■	E	S	P	Y
E	R	S	T	■	A	S	S	■	R	O	S	S

Yesterday's answer 9-23



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Erik-Michael Estrada, 30; Kip Pardue, 33; Matt Hardy, 35; Bruce Springsteen, 60

Happy Birthday: This is a great year to make changes that may have been impossible in the past. Look forward with optimism and refuse to be held back any longer by fear or by others. You have so much to offer if you buckle down and strive to achieve your goals. Now is the time to execute your ideas and plans one-by-one. Your numbers are 3, 10, 17, 24, 29, 35, 42

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Troubles at home can fester if you don't make alterations to your current lifestyle. Spending on luxury items may be tempting but don't do so because of someone you love. Giving in will only lead to more demands. ✪✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): You can make some headway professionally if you skip the nonsense going on around you. Concentrate on work, socializing with people who have something to offer and making some sound changes, ensuring that you do the best work possible and impress the people who really count. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): You'll be excitable and engaged in whatever is going on around you but, before you put cash down, consider the cost involved. Don't be fooled by what others do or say. Find out first hand. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Put a little elbow grease into the changes you want to see at home and you won't have to complain about things not being the way you want. If you want something done, do it yourself and move on. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Don't spend foolishly trying to impress someone who will only take advantage of your generosity. Self-improvement projects or finding other ways to bring in more cash should be your focus. ✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): You can make some positive changes at home, incorporating some of the things you want to pursue into making your life easier. A promise made by a colleague may not be clear. Ask questions before you sign up. ✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Don't falsify something in order to avoid the trouble the truth will cause. Get things out in the open and behind you. Moving forward isn't always easy but it can help relieve your stress and add to future prosperity and peace of mind. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Put a little love in your life. If you've been spending too much time on work and projects, you may have to backtrack. A trip that includes the ones you love will pay off in the response you receive. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Take a deep breath and face the music. There are changes that need to be made and, if you don't hurry up and make them, someone else will. If you want to stay in control, clear up any misunderstanding before it's too late. ✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Take care of your health, your wealth and any pending legal matters. Some-

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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one may try to talk you into something that you shouldn't take part in or spend your money on. This is not the time to cave to demands that aren't beneficial. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Something new will be offered that you should consider—a money deal, new position or chance to buy into something that can potentially change your life. A conservative friend or relative will give you valid advice. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Don't do it if it doesn't feel right. A mishap due to carelessness is likely to occur if you haven't prepared wisely. Stick close to home where you can reduce your risk of injury or financial setbacks. ✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are emotional, intense and dedicated. You are curious, secretive and mysterious. You strive for peace of mind and follow your own path.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun,* ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	5	4	9					
			1	3	4	5	7	
		7				1		
		3					2	
		1				9	3	5
	9	8	6		3	7		1
8	1		2		9			7
9			8			4	1	
	7	5						

Difficulty Level ★★★ 9/23

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

1	5	2	7	6	3	4	9	8
3	7	4	8	5	9	6	2	1
9	6	8	2	1	4	3	7	5
8	2	9	4	7	5	1	3	6
5	4	3	6	9	1	7	8	2
7	1	6	3	8	2	9	5	4
6	8	1	9	2	7	5	4	3
2	3	7	5	4	6	8	1	9
4	9	5	1	3	8	2	6	7

Difficulty Level ★★ 9/22

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

WESTVLETEREN BREWERY **Solution: 5 letters**

E	M	S	U	G	A	R	E	L	I	G	H	T	T	B
C	A	B	L	O	N	D	E	K	N	I	R	D	T	O
N	E	B	A	G	E	S	R	H	M	C	L	A	O	T
A	X	E	B	R	S	E	O	O	T	O	N	R	B	T
R	P	L	V	E	E	P	N	P	S	O	U	K	B	L
E	O	G	V	B	Y	A	O	S	I	L	R	T	A	E
L	R	I	N	S	S	I	X	T	U	S	K	B	H	G
O	T	A	S	T	E	A	A	C	S	G	E	P	S	N
T	A	N	E	A	L	T	A	E	L	L	I	C	E	I
R	L	R	S	C	N	R	T	A	C	L	E	T	T	R
O	Y	A	O	E	A	A	S	T	S	N	A	W	I	E
V	(K)	H	M	M	R	S	A	N	T	L	A	C	U	P
A	O	(R)	E	C	A	P	E	I	A	T	H	R	R	O
L	E	L	(O)	G	O	R	Y	P	E	L	A	S	F	P
F	S	A	N	(C)	T	U	A	R	Y	M	A	E	R	C

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Abbey, Abbott, Ages, Alcohol, Aroma, Beer, Belgian, Blonde, Bottle, Brother, Caramel, Catsberg, Cool, Cork, Crate, Creamy, Dark, Drink, Export, Fermentation, Flavor, France, Fruit, Glass, Hops, Label, Light, Logo, Malt, Monastery, Mouth, Palate, Pilsner, Pint, Poperinge, Rich, Sale, Sanctuary, Scent, Sixtus, Sold, Sugar, Taste, Tolerance, Tops, Vessel, Vrede, Water, Yeast, Ypres

Yesterday s Answer: Shopping

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BRYAN JONES & JUN MEI WANG
P.O. BOX 5097 CHRB
SAIPAN, MP 96950
Telephone No. 233-5545

pro se

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In Re The Matter of The Petition To Appoint General Guardianship For:	FCD GU Civil Action No. 09-0469
WANG ZHE, Minor Child, By:	NOTICE OF HEARING
BRYAN JONES & JUN MEI WANG, Petitioners.	

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on October 7, 2009, at 9:00am in Courtroom 205A, before Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo.

Dated this 14th day of August, 2009.

/s/ BERNADITA SABLAN
Clerk of Court

JOE HILL
HILL LAW OFFICES
P.O. Box 500917
Saipan, MP 96950
Phone: 670/ 234-6806/7743
FAX: 670/ 234-7753

Attorney for Plaintiff
Royal Crown Insurance Corporation

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

ROYAL CROWN INSURANCE CORPORATION, *Plaintiff,* vs. GREENSTONE INTERNATIONAL, INC., dba SAI TRANS COMPANY, LTD., and dba FIRST STOP INSURANCE AGENCY, SAI TRANS COMPANY, LTD., dba FIRST STOP INSURANCE AGENCY, DOROTHY P. CANILLO, ANGEL P. DERAY, SR., and MANUEL M. BANGAYAN, jointly and severally, *Defendants.*	Civil Action No. 08-0411-CV SUMMONS

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANTS:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Verified Complaint, which is given you herewith, within twenty (20) days after service of this Summons upon you.

YOUR ANSWER SHOULD BE IN WRITING and filed with the Clerk of Court, Guma' Hustisia, Iimwal Aweewe, House of Justice, P.O. Box 500307, Saipan, MP 96950 and served upon Plaintiff's counsel, Atty. Joe Hill, P.O. Box 500917, Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared and signed for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail.

If you fail to file an answer in accordance with this Summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Verified Complaint.

BY ORDER OF THE ABOVE COURT:

Dated this 31st day of October, 2008.

/s/ Clerk of Court

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• 3-Liner with picture	$45
• 5-Liner with picture	$55

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Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

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- *Saipan Tribune:* All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

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ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

Manning leads Colts past Dolphins

MIAMI (AP)—Peyton Manning spent most of the night on the sideline and just enough time reaching the end zone.

The Indianapolis Colts had the ball for less than 15 minutes, but Manning made the most of his chances, helping his team come from behind four times to beat the Miami Dolphins 27-23 Monday night.

Manning threw touchdown passes of 80 yards to Dallas Clark and 48 yards to Pierre Garcon. The first score came on the first play from scrimmage, the latter with 3:18 left for the game's final points.

"It was about being efficient when it counted, in the fourth quarter," Manning said. "That's really what the game's about."

While the Miami Dolphins' celebrities were making a Hollywood-style grand entrance, Manning slipped in a side door and stole the show.

The Dolphins rolled out an orange carpet for the pregame arrival of new owner Stephen Ross' celebrity partners. The crowd included Serena and Venus Williams, Gloria and Emilio Estefan, Marc Anthony and Jennifer Lopez, Jimmy Buffett and Colts rooter Tiger Woods.

But Manning was the big star. He finished 14 for 23 for 303 yards, and the Colts improved to 2-0. The Dolphins fell to 0-2 even though they had 239 yards rushing, including 107 with the wildcat.

The Colts had the ball for only 14:53, the lowest time of possession for a winning team in the NFL since 1977. They ran 35 plays to 84 for the Dolphins.

"It's really disheartening," Miami coach Tony Sparano said. "That's exactly the formula to beat that team."

Indy trailed 10-7, 13-10 and 20-13, but each time pulled even. Down 23-20 after Miami scored with 3:50 left, the Colts rallied one more time with a big play by Garcon.

"Pierre was patient," Manning said. "He was more talkative than he had been all game, saying, 'I can beat him. I can beat him.' Of course we didn't get many possessions, but he came up big when we really needed him."

After completions of 15 and 17 yards, Manning hit Garcon with a short pass on the right side. Garcon cut to the middle, then broke back toward to the corner of the end zone to score.

Miami reached the Colts 30-yard line with 6 seconds left, but Chad Pennington's desperation pass was intercepted in the end zone by Antoine Bethea.

"Give credit to our defense," Clark said. "They were out there for probably 100 plays, and for that last drive I know they were tired. For them to come up with those plays and keep them from scoring was just tremendous effort."

AP

Indianapolis Colts quarterback Peyton Manning celebrates after the Colts defeated the Miami Dolphins 27-23 in an NFL football game Monday, Sept. 21, 2009, in Miami.

Bethea's interception was the Dolphins' lone turnover. They were 15 for 21 on third-down conversions, punted once and controlled the ball for a team-record 45 minutes. They had to wonder how they lost.

The answer: Manning. He earned his 119th victory with the Colts, breaking the team record for a quarterback he shared with Johnny Unitas.

"I don't feel comfortable with these comparisons to Unitas," Manning said. "But I'm very proud to wear the same uniform as Johnny Unitas. He was a real winner."

Miami's Ronnie Brown rushed for 136 yards, including 62 in the wildcat, taking a direct snap each time. Teammate Ricky Williams added 69 yards rushing.

Against Manning, it wasn't enough.

"To have as few plays as he did and to do what he did, you just don't see that," Pennington said.

Manning took only three snaps in the third quarter, and the Colts had just three possessions after halftime.

"You just feel like you didn't really letter in the second half," Manning said.

The Dolphins controlled the ball for nearly nine minutes on an 80-yard touchdown drive that put them ahead 20-13 early in the final quarter.

Indy quickly pulled even again. Manning hit Clark for 49 yards to set up a 15-yard scoring run by Donald Brown. Clark had seven catches for a career-high 183 yards.

Miami drove 51 yards and broke a 20-all tie with Dan Carpenter's 45-yard field goal with 3:50 left. He made two other field goals but also missed from 49, which kept the Dolphins from trying a game-winning kick in the final seconds.

"That's one of the strangest losses I've ever been part of," Wilson said. "For us to come up short was very heartbreaking."

NFL BRIEFS

Kolb will start if McNabb can't play

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Kevin Kolb will make his second straight start for the Philadelphia Eagles if Donovan McNabb can't play against Kansas City. Coach Andy Reid isn't sure whether Jeff Garcia or Michael Vick would be the backup quarterback in that scenario. Vick is eligible to play for the first time after serving a two-game suspension as the final league penalty for his role in running a dogfighting ring. "Is he 100 percent back and ready to play a whole game? I can't tell you that, I don't think so, and I don't plan on putting him in that position right now," Reid said. McNabb missed Sunday's 48-22 loss to New Orleans with a cracked rib. Kolb made his first NFL start, throwing for 391 yards, two touchdowns and three interceptions. Garcia, signed last week as insurance, was the backup. McNabb was injured in the season opener at Carolina. He didn't practice last week and was ruled out 90 minutes before kickoff. "I feel pretty good, better than last Monday," McNabb said. "It's one day at a time. I think there is a process that is going on, and the progression makes you feel confident that things are going to be better. Hopefully, it will be quicker than later. I'm looking forward to being back out on the field."

Rams rookie offensive tackle has knee sprain

ST. LOUIS (AP)—St. Louis Rams offensive tackle Jason Smith, the second overall pick in this year's draft, sprained his left knee and will be listed as doubtful for Sunday's home game against Green Bay. An MRI exam revealed the extent of the injury, which coach Steve Spagnuolo said Monday would not require surgery. The Rams lost 9-7 at Washington on Sunday. Adam Goldberg finished the game at Smith's position and would likely replace him as the starter. Smith said he was hurt during the Rams' touchdown drive in the second quarter, although he stayed in for several more plays before leaving the game. "I don't remember whether it popped or not," Smith said. "In the heat of the battle, you don't really feel it, but I knew something wasn't right." Goldberg started six games at four offensive line positions last year and started at right tackle much of the preseason before Smith was elevated to first string. He has experience against the Packers after playing with the Vikings for three years.

Buffalo Bills player reports $400K theft from home

ORCHARD PARK, N.Y. (AP)—Police are investigating a theft from the home of Buffalo Bills safety Donte Whitner, who discovered about $400,000 worth of jewelry missing following Sunday's win against Tampa Bay. "It's mind-boggling," said the player's spokeswoman Patrice Horton, who described Whitner as upset and hurt. "He's safe, but he's on high alert. He doesn't know who did this." Hamburg Detective Lt. Kevin Trask released few details because of the ongoing investigation. He would not say whether there was evidence of a forced entry or when the theft might have happened. The theft was reported at about 10 p.m., a little over two hours after the Bills won their home-opener, 33-20. "At this point we're calling it a larceny," he said. "We can't even call it a burglary because we don't know the specifics. This might be a person who was invited into the home." He did not identify Whitner as the victim, confirming only that the theft was at the home of a Bills player.

Singletary: NFL will handle any tampering charges

SANTA CLARA, Calif. (AP)—The 49ers have filed tampering charges against the New York Jets regarding top San Francisco draft pick Michael Crabtree, Jets coach Rex Ryan confirmed Monday.

"My understanding is they filed charges with the league," Ryan said. "I'm saying my response is it's not true. I mean, it's not accurate. It's not true, but, hey, we'll let the league figure this out."

When asked Monday if his team filed charges, 49ers coach Mike Singletary said it's a situation "the league is going to handle internally."

"I'm not going to get into that. We'll let that play out, the process," Singletary said. "I'm not even going to go there. We'll let the league handle that and go from there."

The 22-year-old Crabtree, selected No. 10 overall by the Niners in April's draft, is the last draft pick not signed. The wide receiver is seeking money comparable to higher picks and hasn't accepted the 49ers' offer for approximately five years and $20 million, with a reported $16 million guaranteed.

The Jets, in need of a game-changing wideout, declined comment. The tampering charges were first reported by the *New York Daily News*.

Earlier, Ryan commented during a radio interview that he wished the Jets played the 49ers this season.

"Yes, and I'll stand by that comment," he told reporters later in the day. "That means we're in the Super Bowl, so I'll definitely take that. "

NFL spokesman Greg Aiello said in an e-mail to The Associated Press the league doesn't comment on alleged tampering, but would announce any disciplinary action taken against a team found in violation of the NFL's tampering policy.

While Crabtree falls further behind with each passing day—former 49ers great Jerry Rice questioned Sunday what kind of impact Crabtree would have if he did finally show up—Singletary isn't ready to say he's better off without the Texas Tech star in San Francisco's run-oriented offense.

"I would never say that. ... We need every football player that can help us win that's supposed to be here, here," Singletary said. "I think he's a talented guy. Hopefully it works out that he gets here. If he doesn't, I feel comfortable with what we have."

The 49ers were caught tampering two years ago. They forfeited their fifth-round pick in the 2008 draft and switched third-round picks with the Bears after commissioner Roger Goodell said they tampered with Chicago linebacker Lance Briggs.

Goodell said the 49ers violated the NFL's anti-tampering policy by contacting Briggs' agent, Drew Rosenhaus, about his client during the 2007 season. Niners general manager Scot McCloughan said at the time the team believed it acted "within the NFL guidelines."

Crabtree caught 97 passes for 1,165 yards and 19 touchdowns last year during his sophomore season at Texas Tech. He finished his college career with 231 receptions for 3,127 yards and 41 TDs.

Saunders pitches Angels to 5-2 win over Yankees

ANAHEIM, California (AP)—Joe Saunders pitched into the ninth inning as Los Angeles prevented New York from wrapping up a playoff spot with a 5-2 victory Monday night in a matchup of division leaders.

Vladimir Guerrero and Torii Hunter hit consecutive RBI doubles off Yankees starter Andy Pettitte, and Kendry Morales added a pinch-hit homer.

The Angels reduced their magic number to six for clinching their third consecutive AL West title. The Yankees, who have dropped six of 10, could have secured a postseason spot with a win or a Texas loss at Oakland. The Rangers beat the Athletics 10-3.

AP
Los Angeles Angels starting pitcher Joe Saunders throws against the New York Yankees in the first inning of a baseball game in Anaheim, Calif., Monday, Sept. 21, 2009.

Rangers 10, Athletics 3

At Oakland, California, David Murphy had three hits and drove in two runs to help Texas hang on to its slim playoff hopes.

Julio Borbon and Chris Davis both drove in two runs as the Rangers won for the second time in eight games, moving within seven games of the Boston Red Sox, who lost 12-9 to Kansas City, in the AL wild card.

Twins 7, White Sox 0

At Chicago, Nick Blackburn pitched seven innings and Orlando Cabrera had two RBIs and scored three runs to lead Minnesota to a 7-0 victory.

The Twins, who have won five of six, moved within 2Ω games of first-place Detroit, which was idle, in the AL Central. The White Sox lost for the fifth time in six games and are seven back.

Royals 12, Red Sox 9

At Kansas City, Mike Jacobs hit a three-run homer and Alberto Callaspo's two-run double helped the Royals to their biggest inning in almost a year.

After falling behind 6-0 in the third and 8-2 in the fifth, the Royals took an 11-9 lead with six runs in the sixth, the most they have scored in one inning since Sept. 24, 2008.

Billy Butler had an RBI double off Manny Delcarmen and then Callaspo hit a two-run double. Yuniesky Betancourt finished it off with a two-run single off Daniel Bard (2-2).

Blue Jays 9, Orioles 2

At Toronto, Lyle Overbay and John McDonald homered, and David Purcey won for the first time in more than a year as Toronto handed Baltimore its fifth straight loss.

The Blue Jays have won 11 of 13 home games against the Orioles and 25 of 35 dating to 2006.

Adam Lind, Edwin Encarnacion and Travis Snider each hit a two-run single for the Blue Jays, who batted around in the third and eighth.

Cardinals 7, Astros 3

At Houston, Mark DeRosa homered twice as St. Louis beat Houston, a few hours after the Astros fired manager Cecil Cooper.

Third-base coach Dave Clark was named Houston's interim manager for the last two weeks of the regular season, but the Astros lost their eighth straight game in Clark's major-league managing debut.

Giants 5, Diamondbacks 4

At Phoenix, pinch-hitter Fred Lewis beat out a double-play grounder with the bases loaded to drive in the go-ahead run in the eighth inning for San Francisco.

The victory moved the Giants within four games of idle Colorado in the NL wild-card chase with 12 games to play.

Braves 11, Mets 3

At New York, Chipper Jones homered and drove in four runs to lead Atlanta.

Garret Anderson and Matt Diaz also connected for the Braves, who have won nine of 11 to keep a grip on their faint playoff hopes. They moved within five games of idle Colorado for the NL wild-card lead with 12 games left.

Cubs 10, Brewers 2

At Milwaukee, Derrek Lee and Aramis Ramirez hit back-to-back homers and Tom Gorzelanny tied a career high with nine strikeouts for Chicago.

Lee drove in four runs and Ramirez drove in two more for the Cubs, who won for the second time since general manager Jim Hendry suspended volatile outfielder Milton Bradley for the season on Sunday.

Padres 11, Pirates 6, 11 innings

At Pittsburgh, Chase Headley's career-high fifth hit of the game drove in the go-ahead run in the 11th inning for San Diego in its third straight win over Pittsburgh.

Headley hit his third double of the game off Jeff Karstens (3-5) in the 11th to drive in Everth Cabrera and give the Padres, who saw their bullpen blow a 6-2 lead in the eighth inning, their eighth win in 12 games.

Headley hit his 12th homer, and Adrian Gonzalez and Nick Hundley also hit home runs for San Diego. Oscar Salazar added a two-run double, Hundley a sacrifice fly and Tony Gwynn a run-scoring single later in the 11th.

Artest: Point at me if Lakers don't repeat

SAN DIEGO (AP)—Pardon Ron Artest if he's a bit geographically challenged and had no idea that San Diego has a big league baseball team, even though he was wearing a Padres cap.

This much he's sure of—If his Los Angeles Lakers don't repeat as NBA champions, fans can point their fingers at him.

"They should. That's exactly what should happen if we don't repeat," the star forward said during a visit to promote the Lakers' exhibition game against the Denver Nuggets at the San Diego Sports Arena on Oct. 23.

"They won last year, and I'm the new addition. The fans expect to repeat. Everybody in L.A. expects a second ring. And if we don't then yeah, they should point it right at me, throwing tomatoes and everything."

Artest joined the Lakers as a free agent on July 8, signing a five-year deal worth about $33 million. He is the team's only addition, essentially switching places with Trevor Ariza, who left the Lakers to take Artest's spot with the Rockets.

Artest said he was proud to be making his first promotional appearance for the Lakers. He wore an all-black Kobe Bryant jersey as a tribute to his new teammate.

Artest

"It makes me more excited, gives me a better understanding of what jersey I'm actually putting on," Artest said. "So today I decided to wear the black Kobe Bryant jersey, because he is the 'Black Mamba,' and I'm really happy to be a part of this team and I'm really excited just to be an addition, an asset, to the guy, to the (Derek) Fishers and the (Andrew) Bynums and all the rest of the players."

During a wide-ranging news conference at the San Diego Chargers' media trailer, Artest drew some laughs with a few slip-ups.

"I didn't realize how far L.A.'s tentacles, or whatever you want to call them, extend, all the way to San Diego. I thought I was going to be getting some Golden State Warrior fans, because I didn't know where I was at. Most of the fans are Lakers fans, so that's great.

"And I'm also here to say that next year I'll be trying out for the San Diego Chargers, so I look forward to that. Hopefully I can play some baseball. Is there a baseball team here?"

You're wearing the hat, he was told.

"I know I'm wearing the hat. I just love the SD. The logo looks great. I didn't realize there was a baseball team in San Diego."

A tough, physical defender, Artest had some spirited moments against Bryant when the Rockets pushed the Lakers to seven games in the second round of the playoffs.

"That was friendship what you saw out there with me and Kobe," Artest said. "That's like hard-core friendship, you know, like back in the days—fight against your best friend when you were younger and go out and get some ice cream later? That's what that was. It was just so competitive.

"I just knew that my team was going to win. Of course we lost Yao (Ming), which hurt the Rockets. And Kobe wanted to win, and he knew his team was going to win. It was like, 'OK, I know you but I don't care nothing about you, maybe I have to step on your toes and give you a couple of elbows and get you ejected twice, whatever it takes to win, that's what I'm going to do."

Artest was ejected from Games 2 and 3 against the Lakers. In Game 2, he received a technical and was ejected after pointing and making a gesture near his throat after complaining that Bryant had elbowed him in the throat under the basket.

Artest was ejected from Game 3 after a flagrant foul on Pau Gasol.

It's all good now that they're all teammates.

"That's what I love about Kobe. He's so tough," Artest said. "He was great when he was younger, but he's much more competitive now. I didn't envision myself playing with him. I always wanted to play against him. I always wanted to beat Kobe Bryant. But I'm more than happy to be playing with Kobe."

A native New Yorker, Artest said he's turning into a West Coast kind of guy.

"I'm learning a lot of different ways of California. Is this Southern California?" he said, apparently not realizing San Diego is as southern as it gets. "It never rains in Southern California, huh? I'm turning into a Southern California guy. I'm happy to be a Southern Californian, or whatever you want to call it."

The Lakers open training camp Sept. 29 at their headquarters in El Segundo.

Double peoria format for RGA Memorial Classic

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSISTANT EDITOR

The 2009 RGA Memorial Classic, set for Oct. 24 at the Kingfisher Golf Links, will adopt a double peoria format with the champion pocketing $500.

Refaluwasch Golf Association president Jordon Kosam said aside from the champion winning a cash prize, second to sixth places will not go home empty-handed.

The runner-up will get $400, third place $300, fourth place 200, and fifth and sixth places $100 apiece.

A $200 reward also awaits lowest gross for men and women, while other competitions such as a skills challenge (holes No. 6 and 15) and closest to the pin (holes No. 3, 8, and 12) will also be held.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Refaluwasch Golf Association president Jordon Kosam, left, and club treasurer Sonny Flores, right, hands a $450 check to RGA tournament director Jess Wabol, center. Also in photo are, from back row left, RGA membership director Juan Rebuenog, handicap director Tony Rogolofoi, and secretary Tars Olopai

Kosam said that mulligans will be available at $5 a pop, with players only allowed to purchase a maximum of two. He said no restriction will be used from tee to green.

The affable RGA president said the annual RGA Memorial Classic pays tribute to late members of the club—Plasido M. Tagabuel, Sid K. Peter, and Antonio Taitano—who also happen to be its pioneers.

Proceeds from the 2009 RGA Memorial Classic will be donated to Tanapag Elementary School. Last year, proceeds from the event went to Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School.

"This is part of RGA's support to the community most especially the students of the CNMI. I want to thank all the sponsors in advance for their continued generous support in events such as this," Kosam said.

The 2009 RGA Memorial Classic will tee off on Oct. 24 at the Talafofo golf course. Check-in time is set at 6am with tee off scheduled an hour and 30 minutes later at 7:30am. Donation for the tournament is $80.

Last year, Bae Young Man, Shirley Jones, and Joe Lizama were the biggest winners of the 2008 RGA Memorial Classic held at the Marianas Country Club in Marpi.

Man topped the tournament after becoming only player to finish under par with a gross score of 1-under 71.

Shirley Jones, for her part, was without peer in the ladies division after topping a four-player field with her 88 (45-43).

Lizama, meanwhile, won the double peoria category with his 62.2. He actually finished with a score of 91 but came away with the tourney's top peoria score after his 28.8 handicap was deducted.

In related news, RGA last week donated $450 to Jess Wabol to help the club's tournament director finance his trip to the 2009 Pacific Mini Games in Rarotonga.

Wabol joined Tinian's Joshua Manglona of triathlon and Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association president Michael A. White in the trip to Cook Islands. The quadrennial event will be held from Sept. 21 to Oct. 2 (Sept. 22 to Oct. 3, CNMI time).

FITIAL

From Page 28

tial knocked out cold the Psycho Gym fighter with a devastating right uppercut, left hook combination that left Mesa unconscious on the mat for at least a couple of scary minutes.

"He eventually came through and was able to walk out of the PXC Terrordome under his own power. Kelvin, with this knockout won 'KO of the night!' and received a plaque recognizing his feat," said Alvarez.

The victory improved Fitial's mixed martial arts record to 20 wins, seven losses, and a draw, while the loss was Mesa's sixth in 13 fights.

The Saipan fighter's victory immediately installs him as the No. 1 contender in the heavyweight division of Pacific Xtreme Championship and sets up a sure title bout against PXC heavyweight champion Roke Martinez.

Also scoring a win Saturday in Guam was Fasi "Quickdraw" Jesse who defeated the U.S. territory's Brian "Shotgun" Howard via rear-naked chokehold at the 1:06 mark of the first round.

"Jesse fought a very technical fight against his more experienced opponent, as he defeated Brian 'Shotgun' Howard with ease," said Alvarez.

Three other Saipan fighters, however, were not as fortunate as Fitial and Jesse after they lost their respective bouts in PXC 18.

"Kill" Bill Saures went down in defeat in his 180-lb. division match against J.J. Ambrose from the U.S. mainland.

Alvarez said Saures was simply outclassed on the ground by Ambrose and had to tap out in just under two minutes of the first round after his opponent locked him up on a side-mount guillotine choke.

He also said that "Tabi" Jay Muna was valiant in defeat against Justin "The Shocker" Cruz, struggling more than a minute to break free from the Guamanian's guillotine hold before eventually submitting.

Giovanni "Palaxi" Sablan also suffered the same fate, losing to up-and-coming Kyle "Boom" Reyes in their 145-lb. division match, according to Alvarez.

Sablan was the aggressor early but made a mistake that allowed Reyes to put a chokehold on him and forced him to tap out at the 1:30 mark of the opening round.

Results of Maitai "The Charger" Charlie fight against Guam's Micah Tobias in the 145-lb. division as well as Leeroy Sablan's bout against Guam's Rob Washington in the 155-lb. division were not available as of press time.

Syl "The Deal" Teregeyo was also supposed to see action in PXC 18 but had to pull out in the last minute on account of injury.

BUFFET

From Page 28

The club's swimmers are divided into five categories for the 2009-2010 season—Sensyu, Jyun-Sensyu, Ikusei, and beginners class.

The bulk of Tsunami Saipan's swimmers are in the beginners division, which have 26 swimmers. The list include Kodie Castro, Doo Yong, Thomas, and Albert Lee, Enoch Lim, James Marasigan, Kentaro Kitagawa, Nathaniel Lim, Rober and Mark Haag, Yuuki Nishida, Mark Maestro, Lucas Kang, Ryuto Yanai, Andrew and Audrey Yue, Frederic Guintu, Betrice Dumlao, Moena Takagi, Jane and Flora Lee, Monica Kang, Asia Raulerson, Julie Conner, and Ton and Puti'on Camacho.

Ikusei, or the developmental pool, has 15 swimmers, namely David Yang, Jaime Soledad, F.J. Dalusung, Jiggs Agudo, Matthew Mamaril, Kevin Engelskjen, Jefferson Cunanan, Jayce Yoshimura, Akiro Cho, Panida Eitz, Euray Lim, Chessa Dalusung, Kathrine Illahi, Cindy Yang, and Sophie Kim.

Swimmers in the Jyun-Sensyu, or junior division, are led by two sets of brothers—Kaisei, Kosei, and Ryosei Toda and the Kaito and Hiroto Yanai. Female swimmers Angel Marie Tan and Angel De Jesus are also in the group.

Meanwhile, the Ikusei II [Advance II] division has only Takumi Sugie on the list, while Andrian Yue, Steve Choi, and Rena Chon comprises the Ikusei I [Advance I] division.

FINA World Championship veterans Shin Kimura and Kai Staal and Kensuke Kimura make up the Sensyu or senior division.

Midori Nishida, Yui and Mina Ito, and Jen and Jian Joyner also joined the group in last Saturday's lunch buffet party.

Coach Kimura said Tsunami Saipan swimmers should look forward to three events in their upcoming calendar—Sept. 26's 3rd Tsunami Time Trial (20m short course and 40m freestyle), Oct. 24's 4th Tsunami Time Trial. (50m long course and 50m choice), and the American Red Cross Swimming Lessons in November.

For more information about Tsunami Saipan and its training schedule, contact the club's manager Yuko Kimura at 789-7842.

IT&E

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High-leaping forward Ryan Sanciangco also escaped the trap with 18 points, while Ernie Fernandez made several clutch baskets and came away with 16 markers.

Playing coach Edsel Mendoza fired 12 points, most of them on fastbreaks baskets, while playmaker Joemar Tumaquip and Bruce Berline added 10 each for the win.

It was the first time in the season that DCCA showed up with a complete lineup but to no avail. Peter Camacho led DCCA with 22 points and Taj Van Buren had 15, as DCCA suffered its fourth defeat in six outings.

In the second game, McGraw Hill-PSS outgunned Customs, 90-70, and climbed from sixth place to third place with a 4-4 mark.

Joe Villacrusis and Peter Mendiola took turns in burning the hoops and wound up with 16 and 15 points, respectively, for McGraw Hill-PSS.

Luis Reyes Jr. led Customs with 18 points as the team groped for form all game long to drop its record to 1-3.

First Game

IT&E 91 – Barbo 19, Sanciangco 18, Fernandez 16, Mendoza 12, Tumaquip 10, Berline 10, Manibusan 4, Yamada 2.

DCCA 67 – P. Camacho 22, Van Buren 15, Rasa 6, Iginoeff 6, C. Camacho 6, Rangamar 5, Young 3, Dela Cruz 2, Sablan 2.

Scoring by quarters: 28-19, 47-32, 65-46, 91-67.

Second Game

McGraw-Hill/PSS 90 – Villacrusis 16, Mendiola 15, Tumaquip 11, Mendez 8, Aughenbauch 7, Ruluked 6, Villagomez 6, Guerrero 5, Delos Reyes 5, Cabrera 4, Cruz 4, Itibus 3.

Customs 70 – L. Reyes 18, JP Sablan 10, S. Santos 9, Maratita 6, P. Sablan 4, D. Reyes 4, R. Lizama 4, Cepeda 3, J. Lizama 2, Tesero 2, R. Sablan 2, T. Santos 2, J. Sabalan 1.

Scoring by quarters: 25-8, 37-27, 64-47, 90-70.

COACH-LESS

From Page 28

sistant coach are Luis Reyes Jr. and L.J. Reyes, respectively.

The Sonics currently lead the 18-and-under cage league with an immaculate 4-0 win-loss record, followed by G-Stars which also has yet to taste defeat in two games.

Runnin' Rebels, Sparks, and Sixers—all with identical 3-1 marks—are lumped together in third place. 670 Rollers (1-2), Ol'Aces (1-3), 670 Rollers 3 (0-2), Hi-5 (0-2), and Celtics (0-3) complete the standings. ***(Nazario Rodriguez Jr.)***

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	95	56	.629	—
Boston	89	60	.597	5
Tampa Bay	77	73	.513	17 1/2
Toronto	67	83	.447	27 1/2
Baltimore	60	90	.400	34 1/2

Central Division

Detroit	79	70	.530	—
Minnesota	77	73	.513	2 1/2
Chicago	73	78	.483	7
Kansas City	62	88	.413	17 1/2
Cleveland	61	88	.409	18

West Division

Los Angeles	90	60	.600	—
Texas	82	67	.550	7 1/2
Seattle	78	72	.520	12
Oakland	71	79	.473	19

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Philadelphia	87	61	.588	—
Atlanta	80	70	.533	8
Florida	80	70	.533	8
New York	65	86	.430	23 1/2
Washington	51	98	.342	36 1/2

Central Division

St. Louis	88	63	.583	—
Chicago	77	72	.517	10
Milwaukee	74	76	.493	13 1/2
Houston	70	80	.467	17 1/2
Cincinnati	69	81	.460	18 1/2
Pittsburgh	56	92	.378	30 1/2

West Division

Los Angeles	90	60	.600	—
Colorado	85	65	.567	5
San Francisco	81	69	.540	9
San Diego	69	82	.457	21 1/2
Arizona	65	86	.430	25 1/2

Yesterday's Games
San Diego 11, Pittsburgh 6, 11 innings
Atlanta 11, N.Y. Mets 3
Chicago Cubs 10, Milwaukee 2
St. Louis 7, Houston 3
San Francisco 5, Arizona 4
Toronto 9, Baltimore 2
Kansas City 12, Boston 9
Minnesota 7, Chicago White Sox 0
L.A. Angels 5, N.Y. Yankees 2
Texas 10, Oakland 3

NFL STANDINGS

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
N.Y. Jets	2	0	0	1.000	40	16
New England	1	1	0	.500	34	40
Buffalo	1	1	0	.500	57	45
Miami	0	2	0	.000	30	46

South

Indianapolis	2	0	0	1.000	41	35
Houston	1	1	0	.500	41	55
Jacksonville	0	2	0	.000	29	45
Tennessee	0	2	0	.000	41	47

North

Baltimore	2	0	0	1.000	69	50
Pittsburgh	1	1	0	.500	27	27
Cincinnati	1	1	0	.500	38	36
Cleveland	0	2	0	.000	26	61

West

Denver	2	0	0	1.000	39	13
San Diego	1	1	0	.500	50	51
Oakland	1	1	0	.500	33	34
Kansas City	0	2	0	.000	34	51

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East

N.Y. Giants	2	0	0	1.000	56	48
Dallas	1	1	0	.500	65	54
Philadelphia	1	1	0	.500	60	58
Washington	1	1	0	.500	26	30

South

Atlanta	2	0	0	1.000	47	27
New Orleans	2	0	0	1.000	93	49
Carolina	0	2	0	.000	30	66
Tampa Bay	0	2	0	.000	41	67

North

Minnesota	2	0	0	1.000	61	33
Green Bay	1	1	0	.500	45	46
Chicago	1	1	0	.500	32	35
Detroit	0	2	0	.000	40	72

West

San Francisco	2	0	0	1.000	43	26
Seattle	1	1	0	.500	38	23
Arizona	1	1	0	.500	47	37
St. Louis	0	2	0	.000	7	37

Yesterday's Game
Indianapolis 27, Miami 23

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOCAL SCORES

ROTARY STANDINGS

Sonics	4	0
G-Stars	2	0
Runnin' Rebels	3	1
Sparks	3	1
Sixers	3	1
670 Rollers 2	1	2
Rollers 1	2	3
Saints	1	3
Ol'Aces	1	3
Hi-5	0	2
670 Rollers 3	0	2
Celtics	0	3

GOVT CAGE STANDINGS

IT&E	9	0
Hyatt	2	0
Docomo	3	1
Tinian	3	1
MBI	4	3
CHC	3	2
PSS	4	4
BOG	3	4
DCCA	2	4
Customs	1	3
CPA	0	5
ARFF	0	7

Vivid Blue Japan donation to MP United

PHOTOS By MARK RABAGO

MP United officials and players and Vivid Blue officials pose for a group shot.

MP United vice president Betty Johnson, left, hands over the club's 2009 spirit shirts to Vivid Blue official Shota Kojima.

MP United's 6-and-under team poses with Vivid Blue officials led by president Kazunori Suzuki.

Vivid Blue president Kazunori Suzuki, third from right, and MP United vice president Betty Johnson, left, pose with other officials of the their clubs during the turnover ceremony.

MP United president Betty Johnson stands beside the equipment donation worth over $3,000 Vivid Blue Football Club of Japan turned over last Sept. 12 at the Garapan Elementary School field.

MP United's 6-and-under team are going full blast with their practice with the NMIFA league just weeks away.

Three MP United players during a lull in their practice session.

Crosby Schultz shows off his mastery of soccer skills during practice.

Northern Mariana Islands Football Association secretary general Ken Imaya, left, chats with Vivid Blue president Kazunori Suzuki.

Double peoria format for RGA Memorial Classic

The 2009 RGA Memorial Classic, set for Oct. 24 at the Kingfisher Golf Links, will adopt a double peoria format with the champion pocketing $500. **26**

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Manning leads Colts past Dolphins

The Indianapolis Colts had the ball for less than 15 minutes, but Manning made the most of his chances, helping his team come from behind four times to beat the Miami Dolphins 27-23 Monday night. **24**

Fitial KO's Mesa in PXC 18

Saipan's Kelvin "The Big Hit" Fitial pummels Guam's Toby "Big Tobz" Mesa with vicious combinations during their heavyweight bout in PXC 18: Dead Game 2 held last Saturday at the University of Guam Fieldhouse. Inset, Mesa lies unconscious on the mat for a couple of minutes after being knocked out by Fitial.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

By **MARK RABAGO**
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

Kelvin "The Big Hit" Fitial can now look forward to his much-anticipated heavyweight championship bout against Guam's Roke Martinez.

This after the Marianas Elite prizefighter literally shook the foundations of the University of Guam Fieldhouse with a brutal knockdown of Toby "Big Tobz" Mesa Saturday night in PXC 18: Dead Game 2.

In an e-mail to *Saipan Tribune*, Trench Tech president Cuki Alvarez said Fi-

See FITIAL on Page 26

Coach-less CK Saints forfeit game

Rollers I players didn't need to flex their muscles against CK Saints in the 2009 Saipan Rotary Youth Basketball League last Monday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The win was automatic for Rollers I after the Saints showed up without their head coach and assistant coach, which forced referees to forfeit their game against Rollers I.

Rollers I thus picked up their second victory in five starts and moved them from eighth to seventh place in the 18-and-under cage standings.

The Saints, meanwhile, slipped to eighth place with a 1-3 win-loss card.

Rotary caging organizers said they were just following the rules. They explained that if the coaches could not make it to the game, then they must designate a representative.

Officials also said that a team should be responsible for organizing their schedule.

The Saints' head coach and as-

See COACH-LESS on Page 26

Unstoppable IT&E slows down DCCA

By **NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.**
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REPORTER

League-leading IT&E engaged Department of Community and Cultural Affairs in a highly physical and highly emotional game last Monday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

However, in the end the telecommunications company won 91-67 to keep their unbeaten streak in the 2009 IT&E Inter-Government/Business Basketball League.

Teamwork once again was IT&E's meal ticket to victory as six players came up with double-digit scores allowing IT&E to record its ninth win in as many games this season.

Darwin Barbo hit the floor several times because of tough defensive from DCCA, but he still was able to squeeze his way inside and finished with 19 points.

See IT&E on Page 26

NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
DCCA's Ponce Rasa grabs the loose ball as IT&E's Ryan Sanciangco is down on the floor during their game in the IT&E Inter-Government Basketball League Monday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Buffet party ushers in club's new season

By **MARK RABAGO**
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan kicked off its 2009-2010 season with a lunch buffet party last Saturday at the Marianas Resort and Spa.

Head coach Hiro Kimura said a total of 102 attended the event—60 swimmers and 42 parents.

"The party's goal was to make new friendship between our senior swimmers and our rookies. Everyone enjoyed the lunch buffet at Marianas Resort," he said.

Not everything in the party was about food though, because after lunch Tsunami Saipan swimmers engaged in a number of activities that included stretching, body core training, stabilization training, and circuit training.

See BUFFET on Page 26

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
A total of 102 swimmers and their parents attended Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan's 2009-2010 season kick-off party last Saturday at the Marianas Resort and Spa.